



**Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta
Acmhainní Daonna**
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
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Louise O'Reilly T.D.

15th June, 2022

PQ 27925/22 To ask the Minister for Health the supports that are in place for staff that cannot work due to suffering from long-Covid given that special leave with pay has been withdrawn. -Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question which was sent to the HSE for response.

The HSE continues to support employees out of work with long Covid. These HCWs will be referred to the Occupational Health services for support and advice. They will work with the employee and their manager in progressing towards a return to work. There is an established process to facilitate this – see the 'Rehabilitation of Employees Back to Work After Illness or Injury Policy & Procedure' - <https://healthservice.hse.ie/filelibrary/staff/rehabilitation-of-employees-back-to-work-after-illness-policy.pdf>. HSE HCWs can also access psychological support via our Employee Assistance Programme, which is a free counselling service for HSE employees.

The HSE is in the process of setting up Long Covid clinics nationally under the Long Covid Model of Care, which will provide specialist care specific to the needs of people with various Long Covid symptoms. (Queries specific to that should be directed to the Implementation Lead Deirdre Molloy DeirdreM.Molloy@hse.ie).

Yours sincerely,

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR