



**Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta  
Acmhainní Daonna**  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,  
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',  
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8.

**National Director  
Human Resources**  
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Eoin Ó Broin T.D.

21<sup>st</sup> September, 2022

**PQ 42345/22 To ask the Minister for Health the action that has been taken by his Department and by individual hospitals to provide support to employees who contracted Covid-19 in their workplace; and the supports that are provided to staff who contracted Covid-19 in their workplace and who are now living with long-Covid. - Eoin Ó Broin**

Dear Deputy,

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

The HSE has an established process for supporting Healthcare Workers (HCWs) to return to work following illness or injury – 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>

This policy outlines the process for HCWs out of work, which would include HCWs with Long Covid. The employees will be referred to Occupational Health and fitness for work will be assessed. Occupational Health will make recommendations for reasonable accommodations where appropriate.

The policy outlines the process for planning the employees return to work following long term absence. It also outlines the process for HCWs where the employee is unable to return to work in their substantive position. In this case it specifies 'options for suitable alternative duties, or alternative employment options will be fully explored'. This is dealt with on a case by case basis. These employees can also access psychological support via our Employee Assistance Programme, which is a free counselling service for HSE employees.

I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Yours sincerely,

**Marie O'Sullivan**  
National HR