



**Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta
Acmhainní Daonna**
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
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Neasa Hourigan T.D.

3rd May, 2023

PQ 16772/23 To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 200 of 15 February 2023 and 1151 of 21 March 2023, the number of staff directly employed by the HSE known to be on leave from work for more than one year due to long-Covid symptoms, as evidenced by their receipt of special Covid leave with pay for that period of time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Neasa Hourigan

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

I have to advise the Deputy that national absence rates are reported in percentage terms on the basis of lost time by staff category, (certified & self-certified) with each of the services submitting their absence details centrally on a monthly basis. Following the first detected case of COVID-19 in Ireland on 29 February 2020 and commencing with March 2020 absence, the HSE commenced a process of adapting collection and collation process to also identify lost time (absence) relating to COVID-19. This measures lost time against available time which is expressed as a percentage and does not record individual specific detail to a defined period of time. Therefore we are unable to provide the Deputy with a response to the specific question posed, through workforce national reporting.

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

**Marie O'Sullivan
National HR**