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Mairéad Farrell T.D.

22nd February, 2023

PQ 5956/23 To ask the Minister for Health when security staff working for a company (details supplied) in Merlin Park Hospital Galway will receive the pandemic bonus payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mairéad Farrell **Details supplied:** Bidvest Noonan (Noonan's)

Dear Deputy,

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

KOSI was engaged by the HSE as the Scheme Administrator on 20th October 2022.

The HSE has identified a list of potential employers of front-line workers who may be eligible for the Pandemic Special Recognition Payment (PSRP) in the following cohorts:

(1) Private Sector long-term residential care facilities for older people (nursing homes) and hospices, whether they be Private, Voluntary, Section 39;

(2) Eligible staff working on-site in Section 39 long-term residential care facilities for people with disabilities;

(3) Agency/contract staff who worked in clinical settings for the HSE or within Cohorts 1, 2 and 4 (e.g. an nurse, doctor, cleaner, paramedic);

(4) Health Care Support Assistants (also known as home help / home care / home support) contracted to the HSE.

KOSI has directly engaged with agencies meeting the criteria and the process for Employers to claim for current and former employees eligible for PSRP has been outlined.

Payments have commenced to the employers who submitted applications that have passed the verification process. The HSE are not dealing with individual employee queries, instead employees are asked to link with their employers in the first instance with regard to their eligibility.

Employers can be directed to the dedicated email address psrp@kosicorp.com and dedicated helpline 01 9601700 where members of the KOSI team will assist with any queries employers have in relation to current or past employees. It is important to note that KOSI only deal directly with employers with the exception of an employee whose employer is no longer trading and current employer not in scope.

The HSE is aware that there are eligible employees of companies which have since ceased trading and those employees are not currently employed by a company in scope who could pass on payment to them. Current work has concentrated on making payments in respect of companies currently trading who also can claim in respect of their employees who have an eligibility earned from their time with a company which has ceased trading. A process is almost complete in respect of companies which have ceased trading but have employees not currently employed with eligible employers. However it will be some weeks yet before these will be processed.

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Marie d' Sullwan

Marie O'Sullivan National HR