



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

28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

**PQ 6481/23** To ask the Minister for Health the reason hospital contract staff who interacted with patients are being excluded from payment of the pandemic bonus; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten

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@kasicorp.com](mailto:psrp@kasicorp.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 here who could pass on payment to them. A separate process is required and this process is entering the final stages of development. This application process will be available to these employees in March 2023.

The HSE and the DOH acknowledge the requests made from various organisations and individuals for inclusion within the eligible non-HSE and non-Section 38 cohorts. The cohorts and cohort criteria were prepared on foot of careful consideration by the Government and the Department has no mandate to expand the list of eligible cohorts or eligible cohort criteria, therefore the Departments position must remain as outlined above.

The Government has expressed sincere gratitude to all healthcare workers for their efforts during what has been a challenging period for our health services. The Department appreciates that those who do not qualify for this particular payment may feel disappointed, and that they too have made a significant contribution to the State's response to the pandemic but it was a difficult decision to set the boundaries here.

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

*Maire O'Sullivan*

