



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

28th February, 2023

PQ 7293/23 To ask the Minister for Health the number of health workers entitled to the €1000 pandemic bonus who remain unpaid; the position of staff in private nursing homes; the number of these who have received the bonus to date; the number of those who have not received the payment; if home help and care providers who continued to look after persons in their homes during the pandemic are eligible for the payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Bríd Smith

Dear Deputy,

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

Payments to eligible employers of employees working in the following cohorts are encompassed by the Government decision initiated on 24 November 2022:

- (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 was appointed to administer the Pandemic Payment on behalf of the HSE to employers of eligible employees on 20th October 2022.

On 1st November 2022 claim packs were issued to potential employers of eligible employees.

As of 28th February 2023, 881 claim packs have been issued and 699 packs have been returned through the scheme portal.

KOSI has completed the processing of 574 employer claim packs (82% of claim packs received) resulting in approving payment to 48,704 employees. **125 claims have been received but are not yet approved for payment, based on processed claims an estimate of the number of potentially eligible employees within these claims is 10,600 employees. However it should be noted that claims continue to be received and assessed on a daily basis.**

All employer claims are evaluated by the KOSI PSRP team, this is a necessary time consuming process which also involves correcting errors and eliminating duplications and incorrect claims. It is not possible to identify precisely the number of non-HSE staff remaining to receive the bonus payment at this point as a) KOSI continues to assess the submissions received to identify ineligible and duplicated claims which have to be eliminated before claims are approved for payment and b) not all employers have submitted their claims. The team is fully committed and is processing claims as quickly as possible.

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR