



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

9<sup>th</sup> August, 2023

**PQ 36489/23** To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on the special scheme of paid leave for healthcare workers suffering from long-Covid in each of the months since it was introduced; the cost of the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question in relation to HSE staff availing of the temporary scheme of paid leave for COVID-19 infection which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for reply.

Data on all staff absences, including COVID-19 related absence is collected nationally and is reported monthly as the HSE National Absence Report. This link <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/national-reports.html> provides detail on the HSE National Absence Report. This report is published monthly and provides data on all staff absences, with specific data on COVID-19 related absence (this includes combined data for Special Leave With Pay COVID-19 and Temporary COVID-19 Scheme effective 1st July 2022), in addition to both certified and self-certified absence. National Absence is calculated as a percentage rate based on lost time (hours) over the available time (hours). It is not reported as headcount, but rather as a percentage rate of absence.

The table attached in *Appendix A* provides the monthly data available on all staff absence, by staff category for the period July 2022 to May 2023 . This data also shows the rate of absence attributing to COVID-19 both as a percentage rate and as a percentage of the overall total of reported staff absence and for both leave types associated with COVID-19 infection.

Based on the tables provided, the Finance team have made the calculations on the cost of the Scheme as detailed in *Appendix B*. Please note the assumptions that apply.

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

**Marie O'Sullivan**  
**National HR**