



**Stiúthóra Náisiúnta
Acmhainní Daonna**
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8.

**National Director
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Matt Carthy T.D.

4th April, 2023

PQ 13736/23 To ask the Minister for Health the civil registration offices that remained operational during the Covid pandemic restrictive periods; the centres in which staff were awarded the pandemic special recognition payment, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Carthy

PQ 13737/23 To ask the Minister for Health the reason staff at the civil registration office north east that were not awarded the pandemic special recognition payment considering that staff at other similar centres were awarded the payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Carthy

Dear Deputy,

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

HR Circular 012/2022, HR Circular 014/2022, and the FAQ (all attached) clearly identifies the eligible employees and the processes required to implement the circular and process payments. Governance of this payment is delegated to the CHO Chief Officers and Hospital Group CEOs and an appeal process has been put in place to address any appeals. While HR Circulars are subject to local interpretation and application, all financial decision-making and the local implementation and interpretation are subject to internal financial controls and the Internal Audit process.

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.

An Appeals process was also established in order to address any queries from HSE staff who did not qualify for the Pandemic Special Recognition Payment- however, this process has now completed its assessments and has finished the process.

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,

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR