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

12th June 2023

PQ 26644/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff presently availing of the special scheme of paid leave in respect of long-Covid; 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. The HSE have been advised that the Minister will also be responding to the Deputy on this PQ and will advise of the COVID Special Leave with Pay scheme.

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/absence-report-april-2023.pdf) 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 SLWP Covid & Temporary Covid 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

To advise the Deputy that, in order to respond to his query we have sourced reportings that to the end of March 2023 there are 136 staff reporting as absent under the Special Leave with Pay COVID for more than one year.

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR