



**Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta  
Acmhainní Daonna**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,  
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',  
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8.

**National Director  
Human Resources**

Health Service Executive,  
Dr Steevens' Hospital,  
Dublin 8, 08 W2A8

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

t 01 6352319  
e [nationalhr@hse.ie](mailto:nationalhr@hse.ie)

Duncan Smith, T.D.

15 May 2024

**PQ 19061/24: To ask the Minister for Health if workers in a facility (details supplied) will received the pandemic special recognition payment, given this facility provides 24-hour care to vulnerable and at-risk young people; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith**

Details Supplied: Crannog Nua Special Care Unit Portrane; and was identified in the first phase of Covid-19 as an environment where the young people and staff would be exposed to Covid-19 and an environment that warranted the inclusion within the sequence 'group 1' of the vaccination programme, with 'health and social care professionals' being identified as being eligible for the payment

Dear Deputy,

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

Please note the Department of Health have confirmed that Child and Family agencies (Tusla – including the Crannog Nua centre detailed above) were not encompassed by the Government Decision and therefore were not considered under the KOSI process. The DOH and HSE do not have the mandate to change the government decision.

The DOH acknowledge that there have been 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.

The 'Pandemic Special Recognition Payment' (PSRP) results from the Government decision (19th January 2022) to provide specific financial recognition to eligible frontline health care workers based on the particular additional risks they faced in performance of duty during the pandemic.

This PSRP is for employees from non-HSE and non-Section 38 organisations who, between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2021, worked in a frontline covid-exposed clinical environment - settings where staff unavoidably had to treat, care for or be in close contact with those who were known to have Covid-19 or Covid symptoms.

This process (and Guidelines) is specific to eligible employees of the following non-HSE and non-Section 38 organisations:

- (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.

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**