



**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí  
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John McGuinness, TD

17 July 2025

**PQ 40447/25 (Health): To ask the Minister for Health the process by which HSE employees suffering long-Covid can engage with senior officials to determine their future, pay and conditions or sick pay entitlements prior to the termination of the current Covid scheme, if the HSE will proactively engage with all affected employees to ensure a uniformed national response to ease the anxiety and uncertainty being experienced by employees; and if she will make a statement on the matter. - John McGuinness**

Dear Deputy,

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

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 National HR issued an internal HR Memo 027/2025 – *Conclusion of the Temporary Special Scheme of Paid Leave for Public Health Service Employees Unfit for Work Post COVID-19 Infection* which confirmed the conclusion of the scheme as planned on 30th June 2025, which was in line with the DPENDPR sanction.

To ensure that impacted employees were aware of this position, each employee who remained on the scheme were personally notified by letter that payment under the temporary Special Scheme of Paid Leave would be discontinued and no further extensions would be granted or permitted. The letter of notification to each individual employee set out clearly, should the employee remain unwell beyond 30th June 2025, the full provisions of the Public Service Sick Leave Scheme, including of extended sick pay under the Critical Illness Protocol (CIP) (if granted) and TRR (if granted) may be utilised by those impacted by the ending of the Special Scheme as required, after that date.

It is important to note those moving to the Public Service Sick Leave Scheme on 1 July 2025 will be utilising the revised sick leave scheme for the first time on that date, and as such, will be subject to the revised sick leave provisions that came into effect from 4 September 2023. Please note that the transitional arrangements are not applicable to this cohort of employees.

Further details on CIP are available at [HR Circular 014 2018 re Changes to Critical Illness Protocol - HSE.ie](#)  
Further details on TRR are available at [HR Circular 024 2023 - Changes to the Public Service Sick Leave Scheme - HSE.ie](#)

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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Mairéad Ryan  
National HR