

**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
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Chief People Officer

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John Clendennen, TD

25 June 2025

PQ 34812/25 (Health) – To ask the Minister for Health the progress in transforming the health service into a seven-days-a-week service; and if she will make a statement on the matter. - John Clendennen

Dear Deputy,

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

As stated in HSE HR Circular 009/2025 issued 23rd June 2025 agreement has been reached with the health service trade unions on arrangements to facilitate the introduction of an extended working day/week in the HSE and its funded agencies. The overarching aim of these extended hours of service is to facilitate smoother patient flow and greater levels of discharge in all parts of the healthcare system over a seven-day period. Services are currently devising plans to introduce extended working arrangements in the areas with most need; these requirements will vary from site to site. Plans will be discussed and advanced in accordance with the provisions of the agreement. To deliver a quick and effective response, staff will be asked to volunteer in the first instance. If not enough staff volunteer, eligible staff will be identified. Based on HSE HR Circular 003/2009, eligibility to be rostered on an extended basis arises as follows:

- All staff employed or promote on or after the 16th December 2008 are contractually obliged to work on an extended basis.
- All staff employed or promoted before the 16th December 2008 and not subsequently promoted, will be requested to work an extended day/week on a voluntary basis.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR