19 June 1998

Ms Anna Kildea HSEA 63\64 Adelaide Road Dublin 2

Dear Ms Kildea

Ms Ciara Murphy, asked me to forward clarification as to the circumstances under which health service employees may be paid while on Health & Safety leave under the Maternity Protection Act, 1994.

All employees who are granted Health & Safety leave are entitled under the 1994 Act to receive their normal remuneration from their employer for the first 21 days of that leave. The first 21 days may arise in one continuous period or as a number of shorter periods. Following the 21 days' employees may apply to the Department of Social Welfare for payment of Health & Safety Benefit or, if it is the practice in the agency with respect to payments while staff are on Maternity leave, be paid their normal pay or a sum equal to Health and Safety Benefit, which ever is the greater.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Monks

Personnel, Management & Development