

PNiS/CC

24th June 2020

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar
Department of the Taoiseach
Merrion St
Dublin 2

By email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

Dear Taoiseach,

I refer to your interview on RTE Primetime 23/06/2020, and particularly the emphasis you placed on the importance of ensuring the safety of Health Care Workers while at work and dealing with COVID 19.

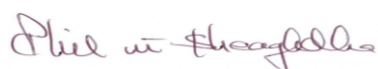
You may be aware of the request from ICTU to your colleague, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys to amend Reg 224 of the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) (Amendment) (no.3) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 370 of 2016) so as to make occurrences of COVID-19 in the workplace notifiable to the HSA.

This request was not acceded to and a further request to reconsider that position issued to the Minister yesterday from ICTU. We would request that you intervene and ensure the regulations are amended to allow statutory authority to the Health and Safety Authority in cases where occupationally acquired COVID-19 occurs or indeed death from COVID-19 is reported resulting from exposure at work.

In relation to the figures of HCW infected, the figures we quoted were those we received from the HPSC and I attach the relevant document for your attention – specifically table 7. If more up-to-date figures are available, we would appreciate it if they are published regularly along with other healthcare worker infection statistics.

Thank you for your attention to this and wishing you good luck with the remainder of your government formation process and term as Taoiseach.

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PHIL NÍ SHEAGHDHA
General Secretary