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17th July 2024

Deputy Darren O'Rourke
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: Darren.O'Rourke@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Rourke

RE: PQ27243/24 To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of a significant delay for persons who have retired from employment from section 38 voluntary organisations and voluntary hospitals to receive their pensions; the steps being taken to resolve this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Darren O'Rourke

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, submitted by you to the Minister for Health. This matter has been referred to me for response on behalf of the HSE.

There was a significant backlog in the processing of pension benefits in relation to retirees from S38 organisations. This resulted from significant staff vacancies and staff turnover in the relevant pension office.

We have sought and have been granted authority to backfill all vacancies in the pensions function. We are actively recruiting to fil all vacancies as soon as possible and have a training plan in place to ensure that the new staff are productive as soon as practically possible.

We have reassigned resources from other functions to ensure that the processing time for pension benefits is in line with normal standards.

The Pensions Management Unit (PMU) are committed to reducing the backlog as soon as possible and have reengineered in house processes to ensure that peak / troughs in work are dealt in a timely manner.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Eileen Winnington
Assistant National Director of HR