

FOI_0681_21/22 – FOI Request Concerning – Employees with Post-Covid Syndrome

- 1) **How many employees at your trust have an ongoing absence from work owing to illness from COVID-19 that has been ongoing for 12 weeks or more as of 11 March 2022?**
17
- 2) **How many employees at your trust have had an absence from work owing to illness from COVID-19 that lasted for 12 weeks or more between 30 January 2020 and 11 March 2022?**
26
- 3) **How many RIDDOR reports has your trust submitted to HSE since 30 January 2020 relating to:**

- a. **Accidents or incidents at work which have, or could have, led to the release or escape of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) (dangerous occurrences)?**

There are specific scenarios that the HSE has outlined where a report will need to be made under RIDDOR regarding employees carrying out work related activities and Covid-19. This has been subject to debate at local, regional, and national level and has resulted in revisions to the guidance during the course of the pandemic. The debate related to RIDDOR reporting has centred on the identification of workplace exposure with certainty, within the context of a global pandemic where community prevalence is high.

It can be very difficult to establish whether an exposure occurred within work, particularly when the disease is so prevalent within the general population. Some of the factors that were considered when determining whether a report is necessary included:

- Whether the employee's work activities increased their risk to exposure
- Whether or not the person was given the necessary personal protective equipment and
- Whether other control measures in line with national and local guidance were in place to keep employees safe.

The HSE are looking for evidence of the person's work activities increasing the risk of them becoming exposed to coronavirus. This includes whether or not the person's work brought them directly into contact with positive Covid-19 patients without effective control measures. If this is not the case, then a RIDDOR report is not required.

For an incident to be reportable there must be a clear and reasonable evidence to confirm the link between the exposure and the work- related activity. It would not be enough, for instance, for a person to simply be exposed to Covid-19 whilst at work. Rather, there must be a specific work-related activity that results directly in infection.

We have jointly reviewed all positive cases and to date there has been no reportable incidents.

b. A person at work (a worker) having been diagnosed as having COVID-19 attributed to an occupational exposure to coronavirus (a case of disease)?

(As Above)

We have jointly reviewed all positive cases and to date there has been no reportable incidents

c. The death of a worker as a result of occupational exposure to coronavirus (a work-related death due to exposure to a biological agent)?

No Deaths have been attributed to the occupational exposure to Coronavirus

Please provide information showing the number of RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013) reports submitted to the HSE (Health & Safety Executive) since 1st March 2020 in relation to the following:

1) Accidents or incidents at work which have, or could have, led to the release or escape of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) (dangerous occurrences)

There are specific scenarios that the HSE has outlined where a report will need to be made under RIDDOR regarding employees carrying out work related activities and Covid-19. This has been subject to debate at local, regional, and national level and has resulted in revisions to the guidance during the course of the pandemic. The debate related to RIDDOR reporting has centred on the identification of workplace exposure with certainty, within the context of a global pandemic where community prevalence is high.

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2) A person at work (a worker) having been diagnosed as having COVID-19 attributed to an occupational exposure to coronavirus (a case of disease)

(As Above)

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3) The death of a worker as a result of occupational exposure to coronavirus (a work-related death due to exposure to a biological agent)

No Deaths have been attributed to the occupational exposure to Coronavirus.