



## **Communication to civil and public service employers and employees on delay phase of COVID-19**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

At the forefront of the national response to COVID-19, our focus is to support the health and wellbeing of all our citizens. To achieve this, and to keep delivering crucial services to society, especially to the most vulnerable and at-risk, we must work together as a unified public service.

We need to be flexible in how we tackle this and find creative and innovative ways to deliver the essential public services needed to support our communities as the situation unfolds. Roles may change and new work may be given. We will ask our colleagues to adapt and be resilient during this period; to row in where services are under pressure. We have already had a really positive response from civil and public servants and have been able to re-allocate over 800 employees to contact tracing to support the health service to date.

As we have now entered the delay phase of the outbreak, some employees may need to be at home (for example due to the closure of a primary school/crèche) and employers need to be as flexible as possible to help them manage this unique situation. At the same time, managers need to enable employees in this situation to be as productive as possible so that they can continue to support the efforts of the State. Undoubtedly the contribution of managers across the civil and public service will be critical in managing this crisis.

Our collective efforts are critical, we need to do this together, as one community and everyone will play their part.

Thank you in advance for your support at this important time.

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform