

General Information	
Ministerial Decision Type	Miscellaneous
Report Title	Coronavirus Short Term Incapacity Allowance (Coronavirus STIA)
Minister	Social Security
Signatory	Minister
Lead Department	Customer and Local Services (CLS)
Lead Directorate	Customer Operations (CLS)
Ministerial Decision Summary: Public or Absolutely/Qualified Exempt	Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption.
Date decision made if different to date 'Ministerial Decision Summary' signed.	28/04/2022
Report and Supplemental Report Details	
Report Author	Senior Policy Officer
Date of Report	27/04/2022
Supplementary Report Title <i>(If applicable)</i>	Insert Supplementary Report Title.
Supplementary Report Author <i>(If applicable)</i>	Insert Official Title Only.
Date of Supplementary Report <i>(If applicable)</i>	Select Date of Supplemental Report.
Ministerial Decision Report: Public or Absolutely/Qualified Exempt	Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption.
Relevant Case/Application/URN <i>(Only complete if making a decision related to an appeal/case/application)</i>	Insert Relevant Case/Application.
Relevant Proposition Number <i>(Only complete if presenting Comments or if lodging an Amendment)</i>	Insert P. number.
Relevant Scrutiny Report <i>(Only complete if presenting a ministerial response)</i>	Insert S.R. number.
Associated Law(s) and/or Subordinate Legislation	Article 2 (1) (b) of the Social Security (Medical Certification) Order 1974
Action required if recommendation agreed	Department to take necessary action.

Resource Implications	There are no new financial and/or manpower implications.
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Introduction

At 00:01 on the 29th April 2022 the legal requirement for someone to isolate as a result of a Coronavirus infection will be removed. The Minister for Social Security has signed a Ministerial Decision which ends the temporary Isolation Benefit scheme at the same date.

Recommendation

To agree the case.

Only insert text if 'Other' selected above.

Detail (Decision and Reason for decision)

Following the removal of the legal requirement for someone to isolate as a result of Coronavirus infection, the Minister for Social Security has further decided that from 29th April 2022 a person who is unwell and has tested positive for Coronavirus (as confirmed by Government) will be able to submit their certification of a positive test for Coronavirus (or any other agreed Government evidence) as alternate evidence of incapacity under the vires of Article 2 (1) (b) of the Social Security (Medical Certification) Order 1974.

The law states, inter alia:

2 Evidence of incapacity and confinement^[2]

- (1) Every person claiming short term incapacity allowance shall furnish evidence of incapacity, in respect of the day or days for which the claim is made –
 - (a) in the form set out in Part B of Schedule 1; or
 - (b) by such other means as the determining authority may accept as sufficient in the circumstances of any particular case or class of cases.

The decision to accept alternative evidence of incapacity (Article 2 (1) (b)) will negate the need for someone (who has tested positive for Coronavirus and is unwell) to arrange a visit with their GP to obtain a medical certificate.

This method of application for STIA will be referred to as Coronavirus Short Term Incapacity Allowance ("Coronavirus STIA").

Submissions for Coronavirus STIA will be made online via a specifically designed web form or by directly contacting Customer and Local Services (CLS). All other rules are the same as those set out in legislation and guidance for STIA – it is only the application route that differs.

A Coronavirus STIA claim will start from the first day someone is incapacitated for work, which may not necessarily be the date that they first tested positive. This method of claiming STIA will allow someone to claim for the duration of time they are unwell with Coronavirus and are not working, which may be up to 10 days (to fit around advice on isolation). If someone is still unwell and unable to work after this, they will need to contact their GP to receive medical advice in order to extend their STIA claim.

In addition, as there is some overlap with legacy claims for Isolation Benefit, CLS will be required to gather data using both the legacy online form used for Isolation Benefit as well as the new Coronavirus STIA online form, and this decision provides the basis for that.

For example:

- Anyone isolating on or after the 29th April 2022 will use the new Coronavirus STIA online form.
- If someone started isolating before or up to the 28th April 2022, they should move to the (legacy) Isolation Benefit page and use the Isolation Benefit online form. Their data will then also be used to determine eligibility for Coronavirus STIA (if required).

Initially, this decision will be maintained for the remainder of 2022 or until Government stop providing testing certification to people that have tested positive for Coronavirus – whichever is the sooner. If the current testing regime remains in place at the end of the year, the next Minister for Social Security will need to decide whether to maintain/extend this decision into 2023.

Resource and Manpower Implications

There are no additional resource or manpower implications to this decision.