



28 October, 2011

Mr Des Kavanagh
General Secretary
Psychiatric Nurses Association
Station House
The Waterways
Sallins
Co Kildare

Re: Review of Government decision to phase out pay for student nurses.

Dear Mr Kavanagh,

I am writing to you about the review of the decision taken by the last Government to phase out pay for student nurses undertaking their 4th year rostered placement over the period 2011 to 2015.

This review included consideration of the representations by the nursing unions but also had to take cognisance of the continuing very serious position in relation to the public finances. Taking all relevant factors into account, the Minister has decided that undergraduate pay during the 4th year placement will be:

2011-2012 academic year - 60% of first point of the relevant staff nurse salary scale
2012-2013 academic year - 50% of first point of the relevant staff nurse salary scale.

The rate for the 2012-2013 academic year will be maintained for subsequent years or until any changes resulting from the planned review of the Degree Programme come into effect. In all cases the salary scale referred to above is that applicable to new entrants with effect from 1 January 2011.

You will appreciate that this outcome has only been achieved with considerable difficulty in the current financial circumstances and is very favourable to the nursing profession, particularly given that a term of the review when initially announced was that any revised proposal should be self-financing. Your Organisation had also requested that the reduction applied to students undertaking a placement in 2011 should also be the subject of review. It has been decided that the arrangements in place for 2011 must stand.

Yours sincerely

Michael Scanlan
Secretary General