

Ref: DK/EM 1113

Dr. Maura Pidgeon  
C.E.O.  
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland  
18/21 Carysfort Ave  
Blackrock  
Co. Dublin

27/11/13

Dear Ms. Pidgeon,

I understand you have notified Nursing registrants that their Retention fee is to increase by nearly 14% to €100 in 2014. As a result of your notification our office is inundated with complaints, most of which are accompanied by a demand that we launch a campaign of protest against NMBI.

Members have pointed out in their contacts that:

- The fee is increasing by 14% when Graduate Nurses pay has been reduced by more than 30% and nurses pay generally has reduced by around 20% with the imposition of the Pension Levy, Pay cut, Universal Social Charge etc.
- The Boards only finances come from nurses, Government doesn't contribute a red cent yet the Board provides services to the Public on behalf of the Government.
- It provides no services to Nurses except registration for which they pay and Verification of Registration for which they pay and which allows our nursing emigrants escape this country where their skills and talents are exploited and of course the Regulation of Nursing Practice where nurses are brought before Fitness to Practice process. A very intimidating and adversarial process and for which Nurses must pay for their own legal representation yet the Fitness to Practice process and NMBI will both have legal representation paid for out of the retention fee paid by nurses.
- The Board is seen as a 'threat' to nurses future employment and has never made any positive or supportive statement on behalf of nurses that I am aware of.
- The Board should tailor its services on behalf of Government and to the public to the €88 previously in place.
- The Board should publish to their paymasters, the nursing profession, full details of all expenditure being incurred, e.g. what are the legal costs?
- No further aspects of the New Act should be rolled out without complete and proper funding by Government.
- The Board has failed to communicate in an appropriate fashion with the profession and has given no assurances for the future.

Nurses are demanding that we launch a campaign including calling on Nurses to cancel all direct debit arrangements to prevent any further increases being imposed without their consent. That we should call on other Unions to do likewise.

The PNA Officer Board has now established a Sub Committee to examine the issues being raised and to develop a strategic response.

I am to request an urgent meeting to examine these concerns.

**Yours respectfully**



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**Des Kavanagh**  
**General Secretary**