

## **RCN Northern Ireland Board Fair Pay and Safe Staffing Sub-Committee meeting 1 July 2022.**

### **Key messages:**

- The Sub-Committee received an update on the RCN pay campaign across the UK and in Northern Ireland. The RCN is currently awaiting the publication of the report of the NHS Pay Review Body for 2022-2023, and responses to it from both the UK government and the Department of Health in Northern Ireland. The Sub-Committee noted that the formal trade dispute between the RCN and the Northern Ireland Executive and HSC employers has previously been notified and a meeting with the Minister for Health to discuss this further is scheduled for Thursday 7 July 2022.
- The Sub-Committee received a briefing on the incorporation of the RCN's demands on pay and reward within the RCN manifesto for the Northern Ireland Assembly election on 5 May 2022, the response of the political parties to these demands, and the RCN's continuing influencing on pay with political parties since the election.
- The Sub-Committee received an update on the work of the RCN UK Trade Union Committee and, in particular, its current forward work programme. It was noted that this embraces pay, issues related to mileage allowances for nursing staff across the UK, and a range of other issues related to terms and conditions of service and safe staffing across all health and social care sectors.
- The Sub-Committee received a briefing from RCN Council in relation to pay. It was noted that a statement of support for rail workers and all other public sector workers who are currently campaigning in relation to members' pay and the impact of the cost of living crisis was recently published by RCN Council.
- The Sub-Committee noted that a comprehensive communications plan has been developed to cover the first six months following the publication of the report of the NHS Pay Review Body for 2022-2023, and responses to it from both the UK government and the Department of Health in Northern Ireland. The plan embraces key messages, the provision of campaign materials for members, and a series of workshops for RCN accredited representatives once the announcements are made
- The Sub-Committee discussed possible scenarios in Northern Ireland following the the publication of the report of the NHS Pay Review Body for 2022-2023 and the UK government response. It was noted that the absence of a Northern Ireland Executive, a comprehensive budget and a public sector pay policy for 2022-2023 could have profound and serious implications for the announcement of an Agenda for Change pay uplift for 2022-2023 in Northern Ireland.
- The Sub-Committee also discussed a range of current safe staffing issues, including particularly members' concerns over an over-reliance on agency nursing staff and the implications of this for continuity of patient care.

We encourage anyone who has any queries, comments, views or opinions to contact us via the monitored RCN Northern Ireland Board email address at [ni.board@rcn.org.uk](mailto:ni.board@rcn.org.uk). Members should note that individual enquiries should not be raised via social media.

#FairPayForNursing