

RCN Northern Ireland Board Fair Pay and Safe Staffing Sub-Committee meeting 8 November 2021

Key messages:

The RCN Northern Ireland Board Fair Pay and Safe Staffing Sub-Committee met on Monday 8 November 2021.

- The Sub-Committee received and discussed an extensive briefing on the different current positions in the other three UK countries in relation to the RCN #FairPayForNursing campaign. It was noted that staff have now received the 3% award and associated back pay in England, Wales and Scotland.
- The Sub-Committee received and discussed an extensive verbal and written briefing on the current pay position in Northern Ireland. It was noted that the additional funding required to secure a 3% award has now been secured by the Department of Health through the Executive's October monitoring round but that there has still been no formal notification from the Department of Health of the pay award. It was also noted that a further meeting between Department of Health officials and the health trade unions is scheduled for Monday 15 November 2021.
- The Sub-Committee discussed in detail the current intense workforce pressures being experienced by health and social care staff across Northern Ireland, linking these issues with safe staffing, pay, and the health and well-being of staff.
- It was confirmed that a Board development session will take place on Thursday 11 November in order extensively to brief members of the RCN Northern Ireland Board on the current position and agree options for progressing the #FairPayForNursing campaign.
- Pay updates were received from RCN Council and the RCN Trade Union Committee.
- The Sub-Committee received a briefing on political developments, particularly the presentation of written and oral evidence on pay and a range of associated workforce issues to the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Health on Thursday 14 October 2021. It was also noted that the Executive Office has still not yet committed to a meeting with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in relation to pay, the original request having been made by the RCN in August 2021.
- The Sub-Committee also received and noted an update on related communications and social media activity.
- The Sub-Committee received a further verbal update on the development of an RCN UK pay risk register to supplement and co-ordinate the pay campaign element within the RCN Northern Ireland Board risk register.
- The Sub-Committee agreed that a communications briefing should be developed in order to inform RCN members about the work currently being undertaken on their behalf in relation to safe staffing and fair pay.
- The next meeting of the Sub-Committee will take place on Monday 22 November 2021.

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. Members should note that individual enquiries should not be raised via social media.

#FairPayForNursing