

RCN Northern Ireland Board Fair Pay and Safe Staffing Sub-Committee meeting 25 July 2022.

Key messages:

- The Sub-Committee noted the publication last week of the recommendations of the NHS Pay Review Body for 2022-2023, the response of the UK government, and the parallel announcements of related Agenda for Change pay awards in England and (subsequently) in Wales. The Sub-Committee also noted the statement by the Northern Ireland Minister for Health, in which he indicated his intention to recommend acceptance of the NHS Pay Review Body recommendations but that he is currently unable to announce the implementation of an Agenda for Change pay award because of the absence of an agreed Executive budget for 2022-2023.
- In light of these developments, the Sub-Committee noted that the RCN in Northern Ireland has now begun administrative preparations for a ballot of members and that independent legal advice is currently being sought on the next steps.
- In the interim, the RCN is writing to the leaders of the main political parties in Northern Ireland to warn them of the serious consequences of any potential breach in pay parity with the rest of the UK as a result of the failure to formulate an Agenda for Change pay award for 2022-2023.
- Plans for a range of member engagement activities in relation to the current position are now being developed.
- The Sub-Committee noted that the formal trade dispute between the RCN and the Northern Ireland Executive and HSC employers in relation to the 2021-2022 Agenda for Change pay award has previously been notified and that the RCN met the Minister for Health to discuss this further on Thursday 7 July 2022.

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.

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