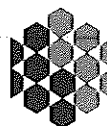


FROM THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,
SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY
Jim Wells MLA



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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Mr Jerry Cope
Chair
NHS Pay Review Body
Office of Manpower Economics
8th Floor
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Our Ref: SUB/1063/2014

Date: 5 December 2014

Dear Mr Cope

NHS Pay Review Body Remit 2015/16

I wish to convey my thanks to the NHS Pay Review Body for its work on the 2014/15 pay round. My Department values the work of the pay review body in this important role. This is true, even where, as in the previous round we were unable to accept your recommendation due to the exceptionally challenging financial position in which we find ourselves and HM Treasury's call for continued pay restraint.

The Northern Ireland Executive has endorsed the principle of adherence to the UK Government's public sector pay policy and enforcement of pay growth limits is devolved to the Executive within the overarching parameters set by HM Treasury. The financial situation within Northern Ireland continues to present challenges which we are seeking to manage and it is within this context that I believe that pay restraint will continue to be required for 2015/16. Therefore I am not seeking a recommendation from the pay review body specifically in relation to pay.

However, in common with the remit provided by the Department of Health in England, I would ask NHSPRB to make observations on the barriers and enablers within the AfC pay system, for delivering health care services over seven days of the week in a financially sustainable way ie without increasing the existing spend. The NHSPRB are, in addition, asked to make observations on:

- affordable 'out of hours' working arrangements; and
- any transitional arrangements.

In considering these propositions, the NHSPRB should have regard to its normal terms of reference plus developments in the other sectors which provide seven day services. I would expect the Review Body's observations for Northern Ireland to follow the same timetable as that for England and be included in their report in July.

My officials are happy to work closely with your secretariat to provide you with all the necessary Northern Ireland specific information to enable you to make independent observations on this key area of service delivery.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Wells". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Jim Wells MLA
Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety