

FROM THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,
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Edwin Poots MLA



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Mr Jerry Cope
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Our Ref: SUB/695/2014

Date: 29 August 2014

Dear Jerry

NHS Pay Review Body: 28th Report 2014

Thank you for sharing with me a copy of the NHS Pay Review Body's 28th Report 2014.

Firstly I wish to acknowledge the work of the Pay Review Body in scrutinising the Northern Ireland evidence and providing robust and independent advice each year. I should also assure you that we value this advice and the recommendations made. However, I am currently considering all options available to Northern Ireland before issuing my response to the 28th Report recommendations.

You will be aware of the continuing need for pay restraint right across the public sector to support fiscal consolidation and there remains a considerable gap between requirements in relation to Health and Social Care services in the current year and the extent of the budget available and this is something which I will need to consider in all spending decisions going forward. My priority is, and remains, the delivery of high quality safe and effective services for patients and clients.

The Northern Ireland Executive's control of public sector pay is based on the principle that the public sector should offer a pay and reward package that allows it to recruit, retain and motivate suitable staff.

I value the hard work and commitment of all health and social care staff and wish to ensure that any decision made in relation to pay protects and properly staffs the frontline. I hope to be in a position to make an announcement on the 2014/15 pay award for Health and Social Care (HSC) staff shortly.

Edwin Poots MLA
Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety