

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



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Dear Ms Hird

NHSPRB 2019/20 PAY ROUND

I am writing to formally commence the 2019/20 pay round for Agenda for Change (AfC) staff in Northern Ireland and to submit my Department's evidence. I wish to begin by thanking the NHS Pay Review Body for its invaluable work on the 2018/19 pay round and, in particular, for its observations on the AfC pay agreement.

On 22 November 2018, the Department of Finance (DoF) set Northern Ireland's [public sector pay policy for 2018/19](#). In light of this announcement, and subject to the Department of Finance's approval, we are proceeding with the implementation of the 2018/19 AfC pay award. Details of the award, which is based on the AfC refresh principles, are set out in the Department's Press Release of 20 December 2018 available at: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/hsc-pay-award-confirmed>

This year, Northern Ireland will not require any specific recommendations on pay, however, we would ask that your members continue to monitor the implementation of the pay agreement and its impact. We would also ask the NHSPRB to consider any issues that have been raised regarding difficult to fill nursing specialism posts, such as, care of older people, acute medicine and critical care to include theatres and would welcome your recommendations, including any case for a recruitment and retention premium.

Yours sincerely



RICHARD PENGELLY

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