

Department of Health

Hawkins House, Dublin 2

An Roinn Siante Teach

HaicCn, Baile Atha Cliath 2



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REF'Slpo/38

30 Bealtaine, 1980

Chief Executive Officer
Each Health Board

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to this Department's circular letter 01:19 November, 1975 ref. 5100/38) regarding a five day week for public health nurses and to convey approval to the following revised arrangements which have been agreed under the Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme in relation to this matter:

- (a) A five day week Monday to Friday Public health nurses to have first option on weekend work; where public health nurses opt out of weekend work temporary relief nurses may be employed. Public health nurses career prospects are not to be affected as a result of their opting out of weekend work.
- (b) Public health nurses who opt for weekend work should not have to carry a greater workload than heretofore. Grouping arrangements should continue to operate.
- (c) Payment for planned essential services at weekends to be a fixed payment of £3 per Saturday, a fixed payment of £3 per Sunday, £4 first call on Saturday and .4 first call on Sunday. Each subsequent call on Saturday and Sunday to be paid at the rate of £2 per call. The increased rates are to take effect from 1st January, 1978. These rates are to be adjusted further as follows:

	<u>Fixed Payment</u>	<u>First Call on Saturday and first call on Sunday</u>	<u>Each Subsequent call on Saturday Sunday</u>
	£.	£.	£.
1/3/78	3.24	4.32	
1/6/78	3.44	4.58	2.16
1/1/79	4.43	5.90	2.29
1/3/79	4.52	6.02	2.95
1/6/79	5.04	6.70	3.01
1/3/80	5.49	7.30	3.35
			3.65

- (d) As referred to in circular letter 5100/38 of 19 Samhain, 1975, public health nurses are not required to provide an on-call/standby service outside the normal working week. In the event of a public health nurse being involved in emergency work outside normal working hours she is compensated by time off in lieu. Under the revised arrangements it has been agreed that the time off in lieu must be given within one month after the performance of the emergency work. In B.J.Y situation where it is not feasible to allow time off within a month, payment in lieu of time off to be made at the following rates:-

1/1/78	£3.00
1/3/78	£3.24
1/6/78	£3.44
1/1/79	£3.43
1/3/79	£4.52
1/6/79	£5.04
1/3/80	£5.49

- (e) Where in very exceptional circumstances an on-call/standby service is required by the health board (as referred to in the 1975 Agreement) payment should be made in accordance with the on call/standby fees.

Where a public health nurse is required to perform planned essential visits on a public holiday, and qualifies for special payment for such duties, this should not effect in any way her entitlement to a day off in lieu of the public holiday worked.

The introduction of a Monday to Friday, five day week, does not remove the general requirement that public health nurses may be required to attend to duties appropriate to their grade outside these hours in situations where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

Mise le meas,