



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Re: PQ 20703/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the salary paid to student public health nurses; to provide details of the rates paid to student nurses from comparable postgraduate courses; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**  
**- Roisin Shortall**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

In response to PQ Ref 20703/24 regarding the salary and conditions for student public health nurses and comparable postgraduate nursing courses, please find below details of similar nursing education sponsorship initiatives offered by the Health Service Executive to post-registered nurses:

**HSE HR Circular 008/2015 - Student Public Health Nurses:**

- **Salary:** Student Public Health Nurses are paid at the minimum point of the staff nurse scale during their study for the Graduate/Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing/Public Health Nursing. During their clinical placement period, they receive 80% of the minimum point of the Public Health Nurse scale.
- **Service Commitment:** Upon completion of their studies, sponsored nurses are required to work in the sponsoring Health Service area for a set period, typically at least 18 months, to fulfil their service commitment.

**HSE HR Circular 004/2011 - Post Registration Student Children's Nurses and Student Midwives:**

- **Salary/Incremental Credit:** Each participant retains their current point on the staff nurse salary scale upon entry into these programmes, based on verified nursing service. Additionally, participants retain their incremental credit date and are granted incremental credit during the programmes if applicable.
- **Service Commitment:** Participants must serve a minimum period equivalent to the length of the sponsorship program in their sponsoring health service facility.

**HSE HR Circular 009/2018 - Post Registration Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurses:**

- **Salary and Incremental Credit:** Similar to Circular 004/2011, each participant retains their current point on the staff nurse salary scale upon entry into these programmes, based on verified nursing service. Participants also retain their incremental credit date and are granted incremental credit during the programmes if applicable.
- **Service Commitment:** Following the successful completion of the program, participants are required to commit to a minimum of two years of service within the sponsoring Public Mental Health Service.

Yours sincerely,

John F Scott  
General Manager