

21st July 2000

To: Chief Executive Officer, Each Health Board/ERHA ✓
Personnel Officer, Each Health Board/ERHA ✓

Chief Executive Officer, Each Nurse Training Hospital ✓
Personnel Officer, Each Nurse Training Hospital ✓

Chief Executive Officer, Each Mental Handicap Nurse Training Agency ✓
Personnel Officer, Each Mental Handicap Nurse Training Agency ✓

Re: Support Package for Nurse Teachers

As you will know, the Commission on Nursing recommended the transfer to pre-registration nursing education to the third level sector from Autumn 2002. Among the specific related recommendations was one that Nurse Teachers be supported in securing qualifications required for appointment by third level institutions.

Agreement has been reached with the nursing unions on a package of financial support in respect of Nurse Tutors (including 'Acting' Tutors and Clinical Instructors) undertaking Masters degree courses since September 1998. Details of the agreed arrangements are attached. The additional costs, if any, will be funded by the Department of Health and Children to which such details should be supplied.

Perhaps you would ensure that details of agreed arrangements are made available to relevant personnel and that arrangements are made prior to commencement of the next academic year to facilitate payment of fees to the Colleges involved.

Yours sincerely,



Martin McDonald
PROJECT MANAGER

Support Package for Nurse Teachers

1. Subject to paragraph 2 below, in accordance with recommendations contained in paragraphs 5.56, 5.57 and 6.52 of the Commission on Nursing Report, Nurse Teachers who undertake Masters degree courses since the publication of that Report (September 1998) will –
 - (a) have the full cost of the college fees incurred by them in respect of their undertaking the course paid by their employer.
 - (b) Receive a once-off grant not exceeding £2,000 in respect of out of pocket expenses incurred by them in pursuit of a Masters qualification.
 - 50% payable upon registration
 - 50% payable upon completion of the course.
2. Where financial support in respect of fees or expenses has been provided by an employing agency, such support shall be deducted from any monies payable under 1 (a) and (b) above.
3. Nurse Teachers who qualify for support under these arrangements should apply directly to their employing agency.
4. The provision of support under these arrangements shall be conditional on the Nurse Teacher concerned giving a written undertaking to continue to work as a Nurse Teacher in the public health service for a period of two years after the completion of the Masters course. This requirement will not apply to a Nurse Teacher who takes up an appointment as a Lecturer in Nursing Studies at an associated third level institute involved in the operation of the Nursing Registration/Diploma Programmes.
5. The Nursing Alliance agree that this support package is specifically designed to enable Nurse Teachers to prepare for the transfer of nursing and midwifery education to the higher education sector, in accordance with the relevant recommendations of the Commission on Nursing, and that it will not be used as a basis for any future claim on behalf of any other group of nurses or midwives.