

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Update Re Review of Financial Support for Students

Dear Colleagues,

Further to our correspondence of [4th December](#) re the above, we are now providing you with an update following further engagement with the Department of Health and in conjunction with the INMO.

- The Department of Health have committed to proposals on two reviews. The first review will look at the immediate need for financial support given the context of COVID-19 for student nurses in years 1—4. Both the Department of Health and the PNA will make oral and written submissions to an independent party, Professor Tom Collins. The review must be completed on or before the 31st of December 2020, so that the recommendations can be implemented in January 2021 if accepted.
- The Department of Health have committed to a second separate review beginning early in the new year with regard to looking at the general issue of clinical placement allowances for supernumerary students and the situation for internship students for the longer term. There will be engagement with the PNA in relation to the terms of reference, this review will also include an independent third party. If those recommendations are accepted, they will be implemented in September 2021.

Please note in the attached correspondence of December 4th as previously outlined:

*"All student nurses and midwives who can show previous income during the relevant period, and who are now not earning, will be entitled to the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) for the duration of their placements".*

We will keep you updated in relation to developments in these matters.

Yours sincerely



Mr Peter Hughes  
General Secretary

*General Secretary, Mr. Peter Hughes  
Deputy General Secretary, Mr. Michael Hayes*