

# NEWSFLASH

## FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBERS

*Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014*

**Re: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) - 2015 Retention Fee**

Dear Member

On behalf of the INMO, SIPTU and the PNA we wish to advise you that the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) has voted to increase the retention fee, for 2015, from €100 to €150. This increase would represent an 80% increase in two years at a time when salaries have been cut and inflation is at less than 1%.

None of the elected nurse/midwife members on the Board voted for the increase but were outvoted by the remaining majority.

It should also be noted that the NMBI decided they would review this fee next year possibly leading to a further increase. It is quite clear the NMBI have no long term financial plan/strategy and it is also clear that they view nurses/midwives as its sole source of revenue regardless of the cost to the individual registrant.

One further point is that the NMBI has, in recent weeks, declined to make a statement in relation to the clinical environment within which nurses/midwives are having to practice. It would appear that the NMBI does not have a view as to what is required for safe practice, but yet will sit in judgement of a nurse/midwife referred under the fitness to practice process.

**AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OUR THREE UNIONS WISH TO ADVISE OUR COLLECTIVE MEMBERSHIPS THAT THE UNIONS ARE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO THIS INCREASE.**

In that regard our initial advice, to all members, is as follows:

1. any member who pays the annual retention fee, to the NMBI, by **DIRECT DEBIT** from their bank, should immediately move to **CANCEL** same;
  - each member is asked to confirm, to their union, that they have cancelled the NMBI mandate;

2. the three unions will organise a protest on the day of the **NMBI's national conference, scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014**, calling for a reversal of the increase and other protests at board meetings may be organised;
  - local arrangements will be made to transport members to this protest;
3. all three unions will be asking members to sign a petition, for submission to the Board, asking them to reverse their decision;
  - this will be organised online in the coming days;
4. members of all three unions will be asked to send a letter, to the President of the Board, seeking information, regarding costs, and calling for a reversal of the decision to increase the fee - this letter is available from your union; and
5. further advice will issue, from our three unions, before the renewal notices start arriving, from NMBI, in late October/early November regarding the next stages of the campaign.

In addition to these steps the three unions will seek immediate discussions, with the NMBI/Department of Health, on this matter in the context of seeking a long term financial plan for the Board.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

**WE STRESS THE FIRST STEP IS FOR ANY MEMBER HAVING A DIRECT DEBIT, WITH NMBI, TO CANCEL SAME IMMEDIATELY.**

Please await further advice in due course.

Yours sincerely

  
**LIAM DORAN**  
General Secretary  
INMO

  
**KEVIN FIGGIS**  
National Nursing Officer  
SIPTU

  
**DES KAVANAGH**  
General Secretary  
PNA