

Date:

Mr Paul Gallagher
President
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland
18/20 Carysfort Avenue
Blackrock
Co Dublin

Re: Review of Annual Retention Fee

Dear President

It has been brought to my attention that your board, my regulatory body, has voted to increase the annual retention fee for 2015 to €150.

I wish to advise you that I am totally opposed to this increase for a number of reasons including:

1. Nurses and Midwives have suffered a minimum of a 15% reduction in pay, combined with a range of additional compulsory levies/taxes/charges, in recent years.
2. Notwithstanding this NMBI increased the retention fee by 12.5% with effect from 1st January 2014, and this proposed increase would mean an 80% increase in two years.
3. The annual retention fee, for other allied health professionals, is set at €100 and is not being reviewed at this time. Furthermore I would ask you to note that the registration fee, for teachers, was recently reduced and now sits at €65 per annum.
4. The complete lack of openness and transparency, particularly in recent years, by NMBI, with regard to the cost of external consultants and legal fees. I am requesting full disclosure, by return, of the hourly/daily rates paid and other costs incurred, on these activities immediately.
5. The failure of NMBI to secure ongoing, continuous, funding from the Department of Health, in recognition of the following:
 - the abolition of the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery;

- the absorption of staff, from the Council, and related costs;
 - the additional costs arising from implementation of the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011 - all being brought forward in the public interest; and
 - the additional costs arising from different fitness to practice procedures.
6. Finally the complete failure of NMBI to support nurses/midwives, in the clinical environment, when their judgement indicates care is being compromised due to lack of resources or general management direction.

Against this background it would be totally unacceptable for NMBI to increase the retention fee to €150. There is no basis for your decision and any financial shortfall cannot turn into a burden upon registrants who are already under severe pressure.

In view of this I am asking you to confirm, by return, that you will reconvene the Board for the purpose of them reversing the decision to increase the fee for 2015.

Please treat this matter as urgent and I expect to hear from you shortly.

Yours sincerely