



PNA Demands HSE Reverse Reckless Decision and Pay Nurses Monies Owed

Union prepares to ballot on industrial action in response to HSE announcement on expenses

The PNA has today, Wednesday, warned the HSE that it is now preparing a ballot for Industrial Action in response to their irresponsible, reckless and inflammatory announcement that it is not going to pay its staff monies rightfully owing to those staff for expenses already incurred in the course of their work.

Those same staff have already incurred cuts of between 25-40% in expenses paid over the last 2 years. In many cases staff are incurring personal, unpaid expenses in trying to maintain services to their patients. This announcement is now reaping a whirlwind of angry responses from a highly agitated and offended staff.

Reacting to the HSE move Des Kavanagh, General Secretary of the PNA said:

‘Hard pressed nurses who were depending on these monies before Christmas are shocked and angered by the HSEs inflammatory action. The nurses have made their repayments on their car, paid their tax and insurance and paid for their fuel, all in the expectation that their expenses will be paid promptly, when due.’

Mr Kavanagh said this provocative action by the HSE leaves the Union with no option but to commence a ballot for Industrial Action.

‘The PNA is organising the balloting process while hoping at the same time that common sense will prevail. It must surely be the first time in the history of the State that a Union has had to ballot its members for Industrial Action in pursuit of payment of monies actually owing to their members.’

The PNA points out that this HSE decision undermines Government policy which seeks to encourage a greater dependence on *Care in the Community* as opposed to highly expensive hospital based care. If the many staff currently providing community based services are treated like this why would other staff seek to develop their careers in providing care in the community?

Mr Kavanagh, said there was justifiable anger among PNA members who were being asked to continue to provide their services in their customary professional way, even while continuing to incur costs which the HSE is saying they will not pay until some unknown date in the future.

‘While many members would undoubtedly feel like sitting in their offices while awaiting a resolution of this crisis it is essential that we continue to prioritise care to our patients even in the face of this appalling action by the HSE. PNA is determined to secure the payments due our members without further delay. While we want to resolve this issue with the least interruption to our services, to patients and indeed to the lives of our members the responsibility for any action we are forced to take to secure our entitlements will lie solely with HSE which is showing itself to be increasingly dysfunctional in its actions.’

End

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