

INMO AND PNA JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday, July 31st, 2013

HSE BULLYING NURSING AND MIDWIFERY STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) and Psychiatric Nurses Association (PNA) have strongly condemned the HSE for their overt attempt to force students and newly qualified nurses and midwives into their low pay graduate scheme.

Both unions were reacting to reports that the HSE has advised local managers that the only positions available for newly qualified nurses and midwives would be on the graduate scheme which pays 85% in the first year and 90% in the second year of the staff nurse/midwife rate of pay.

Additionally it is understood that employers have been advised that nurses and midwives who are employed on temporary contracts having qualified in 2011 and 2012 should be let go and only taken back as part of the scheme. Please see copy of correspondence, sent by the INMO to the HSE, on this issue on 29th July.

Both unions insist that the Haddington Road agreement specifically provides that the positions filled under the scheme are in addition to the employment ceiling for the health service and that they cannot be used to replace existing fillable vacancies. Further the agreement only allows for recruitment under the scheme where there is a significant spend on agency or overtime, in an employment area, according to the unions.

Suggesting that the scheme is now the only route to employment in the health service is an attempt to bully students and newly qualified nurses and midwives and is contrary to the commitment given, in the Haddington Road agreement, that normal HSE recruitment would continue side by side with the graduate scheme.

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