

LD/os

8<sup>th</sup> June 2009

To: **Branch/Section Officers/Nurse/Midwife Reps/Nurse  
Representatives**

Re: **An Bord Altranais – Public Statement regarding nurses/midwives  
taking industrial action**

Dear Colleague,

I refer to the recent public statements, from An Bord Altranais, regarding the responsibilities of nurses and midwives whenever they are contemplating taking industrial action.

As you will be aware, this public statement came after INO members in Sligo General Hospital, together with members from SIPTU, engaged in industrial action, for one day, in protest at very poor staffing levels and the laying off of 19 temporary nurses.

The issues in dispute in Sligo General Hospital have now been the subject of a Labour Court hearing and our members, in Sligo, are currently balloting on a recommendation from the Court which:

- provides for an immediate staffing review to be completed within four weeks;
- the closure of 16 beds and the redeployment of 15.5 nursing staff throughout the hospital;
- the retention of all remaining temporary nurses/midwives until the staffing review has been completed;
- an offer of employment for all of the 19 temporary nurses, previously laid off, for work within the Primary, Continuing and Community Care Directorate in the North West Region.

In view of the public statement of An Bord Altranais, the Executive Council of the INO has decided that it is necessary to correspond with An Bord, in order to establish its position, on behalf of all nurses and midwives, in situations where a nurse/midwife has concerns about staffing levels and has voiced those concerns, to their employer, without an adequate, or indeed, any response.

In that regard I attach, for your attention and display on all notice boards in your workplace, a copy of a letter, sent today to An Bord Altranais, seeking answers to specific questions in relation to situations where nurses/midwives, either individually or collectively, have concerns over patient care.

Any reply received from An Bord Altranais will be immediately circulated through this channel and, in addition, this issue will be covered extensively in the July edition of the World of Irish Nursing & Midwifery Journal.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and I would sincerely ask you to ensure this notice, together with the attached letter, is displayed prominently throughout your workplace.

Yours sincerely,

**Liam Doran**  
**General Secretary**