

PNIS/JAM

28th June 2019

Mr Paul Reid
CEO
Health Service Executive

Re: Cost Curtailment

Dear Paul

I refer to media reports earlier this week regarding correspondence between Ms Anne O'Connor HSE and the Department of Health (DoH), and also particular commentary in the Summer Economic Statement re financial oversight measures which the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) are now requiring in relation to spend in the HSE.

I further note your comments before the Oireachtas Committee, as reported in the media yesterday, in relation to the financial overspend.

Considering all of these matters I seek clarification as follows;

1. All HSE spokespersons are advising that frontline services will not be affected. It is not our view that this is currently the situation or indeed will be the case. The current delay in replacement of staff is very lengthy and on average takes between 6 and 8 months and no doubt will be further delayed as a result of these measures.

Can you please advise of the particular instruction to your line management system in respect of protecting frontline services from the effects of these measures.

2. We have an agreement with the HSE and the Department of Health, brokered by the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), which guarantees that 160 Public Health Nurses (PHNs) would be trained in 2019. The HSE have advised Directors of Public Health Nursing that they will only train 98 PHNs in 2019. This will have serious consequences for the delivery of community services and furthermore is a breach of the national agreement.

We seek your intervention to ensure that the agreed numbers are recruited and trained in 2019.

We would welcome your confirmation that instructions have issued and, if not, will issue, to all line managers, that agreements brokered with the INMO are to be honoured and implemented in a timely and prompt manner.

The replacement of frontline staff must be a priority considering delays in this process introduced serious clinical risks and interruption of care delivery.

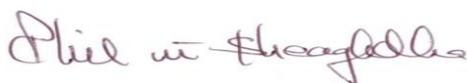
We request a meeting with you, and your team, as a matter of urgency, to discuss concerns that have been raised by our members relating to the financial breakeven plan. As you are no doubt aware clinicians in nursing, both at the frontline and in management, cannot ameliorate risks without the required human resources to deliver services.

These issues are a concern for the health and safety of those being asked to do the impossible and also pose a degree of risk to the public that must be prioritised by the HSE, the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

I confirm that we are available to meet next week, on either the afternoon of Thursday 04th July or the morning of Friday 05th July. I would welcome your confirmation that the HSE will be available to meet on either one of these days.

Thanking you.

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PHIL NI SHEAGHDHA
General Secretary