

**RCN Northern Ireland Board Fair Pay and Safe Staffing Sub-Committee meeting
1 December 2021**

Key messages:

The RCN Northern Ireland Board Fair Pay and Safe Staffing Sub-Committee met on Wednesday 1 December 2021.

- **The Sub-Committee noted the Department of Health announcement of a 3% annual pay award for 2021-2022 for all HSC staff on Agenda for Change contracts, dated 30 November 2021, along with the RCN statement in response to the award.**
- **It was noted that the award will be backdated to 1 April 2021 and that the Minister for Health has committed to “ensuring this award and the payment of associated back pay is progressed as quickly as possible”.**
- **The Sub-Committee also noted the Minister’s undertaking “to prioritise a bid, as part of January monitoring, for additional resource to support a further non-consolidated award for most Agenda for Change staff in 2021-2022”.**
- **The Sub-Committee noted that the award falls significantly short of the RCN’s demand for a 12.5% uplift for all staff on Agenda for Change contracts.**
- **Under these circumstances, the Sub-Committee agreed to recommend to the RCN Northern Ireland Board and the RCN (UK) Trade Union Committee the immediate launch of a comprehensive programme of member engagement across Northern Ireland, culminating in a consultative ballot of members on Agenda for Change contracts from mid-January 2022.**
- **In support of this programme, a communications plan is now being developed and further details of the associated activity will be published as soon as possible.**
- **The next scheduled meeting of the RCN Northern Ireland Fair Pay and Safe Staffing Sub-Committee will take place on Thursday 6 January 2022.**

We encourage anyone who has any queries, comments, views or opinions to contact us via the monitored RCN Northern Ireland Board email address at ni.board@rcn.org.uk. Members should note that individual enquiries should not be raised via social media.

#FairPayForNursing