

IMO



IRISH MEDICAL
ORGANISATION

10 Fitzwilliam Place
Dublin 2 Ireland
Telephone
(01) 676 72 73
Facsimile
(01) 661 27 58
E mail: imo@imo.ie

4th September 2012

Ms Laverne McGuinness
National Director, Integrated Services / PFM
Health Service Executive
Dr Steevens Hospital
Dublin 8

Re: HSE Additional Cost Savings 2012

Dear Ms McGuinness

We write in connection with the above, which was the subject of a memorandum issued by you on 29th August, 2012.

In particular, we wish to take issue with Section 2.3, which deal with funding for education and training wherein it is noted that:

"All education and training is to be deferred until 2013 with immediate effect and no approvals should be given. This includes areas such as continuing medical education and training. The National Director HR has been advised of this decision. Please ensure that this is communicated to all relevant hospitals and personnel including medical staff."

Quite aside from the unfairness of singling out medical staff in this context, there is a critical issue that arises with regard to the requirements on Doctors to undertake continuous medical education / continuous professional development under the terms of the Medical Practitioners Act (2007).

We would like to draw your attention to Section 93 (1) of the Act which requires that the Health Service Executive "shall facilitate the maintenance of professional competence of registered medical practitioners pursuant to a professional competence scheme applicable to the practitioners concerned."

This should be read in conjunction with Section 94 (1) which places a corresponding responsibility on registered medical practitioners, requiring that they "maintain the practitioner's professional competence on an ongoing basis pursuant to a professional competence scheme applicable to that practitioner."

While there is no doubt that the HSE faces severe financial difficulties, it is also clear that the dual requirement and obligation arising out of the Medical Practitioners Act cannot be set aside because of those financial difficulties. Just as Doctors must continuously maintain and upgrade their skills so as to deliver the highest standards of patient care, so the HSE must facilitate that process.

It is imperative, therefore, that Section 2.3 of the memorandum of 29th August be rescinded to allow for the continuance of continuing medical education / continuous professional development in the interests of the effective delivery of the highest standard of patient care.

CEARDCHUMANN
DOCHTÚIRÍ na hÉIREANN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
George F. McNeice, B.A.

We would appreciate your prompt response in this pressing matter and can make ourselves available to meet with you, at short notice, to discuss the issues contained in this letter.

Yours sincerely



Dr Paul McKeown
President, Irish Medical Organisation



Steve Tweed
Director, Industrial Relations

cc: Mr Liam Woods, National Director, Finance, HSE
Mr Barry O'Brien, National Director, Human Resources, HSE

