

NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL: HSE STAFF PANEL OF TRADE UNIONS



INMO, SIPTU, Fórsa, IMO, MLSA, CONNECT, UNITE WORKING AS ONE

8th March 2018

Re: Storm Emma and Protocols for Severe Weather Alerts.

Dear Colleagues,

A meeting between the Staff Panel of ICTU Trade Unions regarding the two matters above was held yesterday afternoon. The Staff Panel of ICTU Trade Unions was represented by officials from INMO, SIPTU, Fórsa, IMO, MLSA and Craft Unions.

The meeting was convened with National HSE HR to cover HSE and Section 38's following representations from the Staff Side. Management was represented by Rosarii Mannion, Head of National HR and John Delamere, Head of Corporate HR.

At the outset, it must be stated that management were fulsome in their praise for the heroic efforts of Members across all disciplines in maintaining services to our patients and clients throughout the national emergency.

The meeting focused on the following points:

1. The need to resolve issues arising for staff who were unable to attend work due to the Severe Weather.
2. The need for the HSE and Dept of Health to recognise the efforts of staff who attended for work during the period and maintained vital services.
3. The need for agreement on a national protocol which would provide guidance to the health service for future severe weather warning events.

After an extensive engagement the following points were agreed:

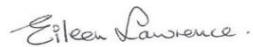
a) Regional HR and local managers will be instructed NOT to implement any local arrangements concerning the effects of the storm on work attendance etc. until agreement is reached nationally on all of the varied issues/questions which have arisen, which means that the previous circular on Storm Ophelia and future arrangements is in abeyance while discussions continue;

b) Having regard to the specific circumstances around Storm Emma, management will respond to the Staff Panel's proposal that the period under discussion needs to be agreed and requires resolution on the issues identified.

c) The Staff Panel will submit documentation to management covering the vast array of scenarios which ensued across all of our vital services within the Health Sector and management will formulate draft positions on each to be discussed at our next meeting;
d) when we have dealt with the above, we will jointly concentrate our efforts on agreeing fair and practicable protocols for future weather alerts.

Our next meeting on these issues will be held at 11.00am on Wednesday, 14th March and a further update will issue to Members directly after that.

Yours sincerely,



Eileen Lawrence

Staff Side Secretary

National Joint Council