



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Alan Kelly,
Houses of the Oireachtas,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2,
D02 XR20.
E-mail: alan.kelly@oireachtas.ie;

Tuesday, 22 December 2020

Re: PQ ref 40623/20: “To ask the Minister for Health the estimate cost to the State to pay student nurses for all mandatory on-the-job training they undertake as part of their studies if the wage scale was set at the same level as the apprenticeship training allowance based on the gross wage norms for the sector. – Alan Kelly”

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The content of Nursing and Midwifery undergraduate 4 year degree programme is governed by standards and requirements which are set down by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI).

To meet the education standards and training requirements, 45 weeks of their course over a 4 year period involves supernumerary clinical placement status. Supernumerary status means that the student is not included in the workforce numbers of the clinical area and that they do not carry a clinical caseload. This ensures protected learning, essential to support students in gaining the range of skills, experience and competence needed for qualification.

In the final year students are paid a student internship salary for their 36 weeks rostered clinical placement where they are part of the employed workforce and counted as part of the nursing & midwifery workforce. During this period, they have some responsibility for their work, but supervision remains in place.

Yours sincerely,

John F Scott
General Manager