



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

National Hospitals Office  
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14th May 2008

**Re:** Career Breaks for NCHDs who intend to go abroad to gain work experience

**To:** Hospital Network Managers (NHO) and Assistant National Directors (PCCC)

As part of the negotiations on a revised contract of employment for consultants, the Health Service Executive has agreed that non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs) employed on Higher Specialist Training schemes who intend to go abroad to gain the required experience to equip them to compete for consultant posts may be offered career breaks to cover the period of their intended absence.

The sole purpose of this measure is to enable them to retain continuity of employment in order to retain their existing status for superannuation purposes.

In order to be eligible for this provision an applicant must be employed as a Specialist Registrar or Senior Registrar, have commenced in employment in the public sector prior to 1st April 2004 and have been continuously employed in the public sector since then (i.e. not have had a break in service of more than 6 months)<sup>1</sup>.

Such career breaks shall be granted in accordance with the provision of the career break scheme which is set out in Department of Health and Children circulars (ref s146/99 – 26/08/1987, 30/03/1989 and 07/11/1990).

Please ensure that this letter is distributed to the relevant personnel in both HSE and non-HSE agencies within your remit.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Condon

**Consultant Contract Implementation**

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<sup>1</sup> Requirements are set out in the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 for those deemed not to have 'new entrant' status.