

20 October, 2003

To each Chief Executive Officer,
Each Health Board/ERHA

**DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND
CHILDREN**
AN ROINN
SLÁINTE AGUS LEANAÍ

Óilít, leithéarma
Ailseam, Eilseam, Eilseam

Re: Parallel Benchmarking Processes
A. Craftworkers
B. Non-Nursing Staff

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

The Labour Court has issued recommendations in relation to the above named processes. The trade unions have commenced a ballot in this regard.

The implementation of the pay component of the agreement is on the same basis as the Report of the Public Service Benchmarking Body (PSBB), i.e. 25% of pay increase from 1 December 01 etc.

In order to expedite a first instalment in 2003 it is agreed to pay €2,000 to each wholetime equivalent, or pro rata thereof, to all staff comprehended by the above. A pro rata payment applies where the staff member works less than whole time hours and/or they commenced employment with your Board after 1 December 01. It is essential that the first phase is paid by year end, and therefore all health boards are requested, as a matter of urgency, to undertake necessary preparatory work to pay the award, in order that payments can issue once funding is allocated by this Department.

Detailed information is urgently required by the Department confirming the number (WTEs) of craftworkers and non-nursing personnel employed by your Board/ Authority.

Information should be supplied separately detailing the number of eligible pensioners as appropriate, and to eligible staff employed in Section 65s (or other grant funded agencies) under the aegis of your board/authority.

This information should be consistent with the approved regional employment ceiling for your board/authority.

Only when these Labour Court recommendations are accepted by the trade unions, will this Department issue sanction for payment of a first instalment.

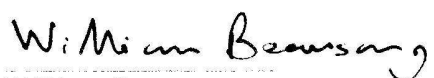
Further detailed information will be sought in relation to the overall costing of these agreements up to and including the final phase, due on 1 June 2005.

Hawkins House Dublin 2
Teach Huccin, Baile Átha Cliath 2
Telephone (01) 635 4000 VPNI12
Fax (01) 635 4001



In order to facilitate the Department in preparing funding of a first instalment of the agreed pay increases for your board, please provide this information as soon as possible, and in any event no later than Friday 31 October next.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Beausang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end of the last name.

William Beausang
Personnel Management and Development