

12th February 2001

Chief Executive, ERHA
Chief Executive, Each Health Board
Chief Executive, Each Voluntary Hospital
Chief Executive, Each Mental Handicap Agency, Specialist Agency

**Re: Part-time Hospital Consultants – Medical Indemnity/Private Practice/
Common Contract**

I refer to revised arrangements, which have been agreed with the Irish Hospital Consultants Association and the Irish Medical Organisation, in relation to the reimbursement of medical indemnity fees for part-time hospital Consultants. It has been agreed that new appointees as permanent part-time Consultants, including job sharers will be classified as Category 1 Consultants and will have their medical indemnity fees reimbursed on the same basis as their full time colleagues with effect from 1st January 2001.

Those existing part-time Consultants classified as Category 2 appointments will, subject to agreement with the employing authorities involved, be afforded the option of transferring to Category 1 status and having their medical indemnity fees reimbursed on the same basis as their full time colleagues.

These arrangements are being made in context of general agreement on the introduction of flexible working arrangements in the Health Service and will apply pending agreement on the revised arrangements on medical indemnity/enterprise liability. In effect, this agreement means that the Category 2 Consultants will have to forego their right under the common contract to off-site private practice in order to benefit from medical indemnity fees reimbursement on the same basis as their full-time colleagues. It also means that there should be no new part-time Consultants appointed whose contract conveys a right to off-site private practice (ie: new appointments should be of Category 1 status).

These arrangements should also be seen in the context of initiatives in relation to the recruitment and retention of staff in the health service generally and comment in the



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recent reports of the Review Body on Higher Remuneration in the Public Sector (Buckley) and the Medical Manpower Forum in relation to certain difficulties faced by female medical staff in particular.

The Department of Health and Children will make arrangements to fund the additional cost, if any, arising from these arrangements through established procedures.

Attached for your files are copies of the acceptance of the new arrangements by both the Irish Medical Organisation and the Irish Hospital Consultants Association.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Martin McDonald', is written over a horizontal line.

Martin McDonald
Project Manager

c.c. Mr Larry O'Reilly, Personal & Development Unit, Department of Health and Children

179.HM:MMcD