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9th February 2004

Chief Executive Officer
Each Health Board

Secretary/Manager
Each Public Voluntary Hospital outside ERHA



DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND
CHILDREN
AN ROINN
SLÁINTE AGUS LEANAÍ

Quality and Fairness
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Re. Revised Salary of Community Ophthalmic Physicians

The "*Public Health Doctors and associated grades – 2003 Agreement*" Circ ref. 39/2003, dated 15/7/03, states that the pay increases, including arrears, due under this agreement to Senior Area Medical Officers (SAMOs) fall to be paid to Community Ophthalmic Physicians.

In the original DoHC Circular dated 7th August, 1991 regarding Community Ophthalmic Physicians, it was stated that "the pay for a full-time Community Ophthalmic Physician is equivalent to the highest point of the scale for Senior Area Medical Officer..."

The Department of Finance has recently confirmed that, following the application of Long Service Increments (LSIs) to the Senior Area Medical Officer (SAMO) scale and the direct pay link established in 1991 between the COPS and the SAMO scales, the COP scale should be adjusted to include **two** LSIs on top of the maximum (equivalent to 6th) point as set out for the SAMO grade.

Progression to the LSIs must be based on the three and six year service at the maximum of the COP scale.

These amendments to the COP scale will be reflected in the revised version of the DoHC Consolidated Salary Scales that will be issued shortly.


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