

JOINT STATEMENT BY NHS TRADE UNIONS

NHS Pay

The NHS Trade Unions have met to consider the outcome of their separate consultations over the proposed multi-year agreement on pay and other matters. Whilst there were widely differing results from the consultations with most unions voting to reject, the meeting recognised that unions representing the majority of NHS staff had voted to accept the multi-year agreement.

The unions listed below agree that, as a result of the NHSPRB recommendations, the appropriate increase from 1st April 2008 should be 2.75% and are keen that members should receive this amount in their pay at the earliest opportunity. To this extent, unions agree that a pay circular should be issued during week commencing 16th June implementing the settlement and specifying that years 2 and 3 may be the subject of the re-opener clause.

Equally, all unions share concerns that the pay uplifts for year commencing the 1st April 2009 and year commencing 1st April 2010 may be significantly below inflation given the current upward direction in prices for food, fuel and other commodities and services.

The unions will continue to collect evidence and give notice that should inflation continue to climb significantly above the planned pay rates across the three year period, they will trigger the re-opener clause in the agreement by returning to the NHSPRB. In such circumstances the unions would expect the Government/s to honour the terms and spirit of the re-opener clause and agree to a review by the NHSPRB or to a re-negotiation of the pay uplifts for 2009 and 2010. The unions would expect the Government to implement any recommendations to maintain the living standards of NHS staff. Failure to maintain the living standards of NHS staff could lead to unions conducting industrial action ballots. .

BAOT, BDA, BOS, CDNA, CSP, FCS, GMB, RCM, RCN, SOCP, SOR, UNISON

Not signing: Unite

18th June 2008