

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: COR-0914-2025

Date: 7 August 2025

Dear Ciara,

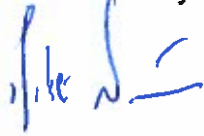
Thank you for your letter of 24 June regarding the 53rd DDRB report and the recommendations therein.

Your input regarding the expenses formula is gratefully received and still under consideration; officials will be in contact to provide further details as review of this element progresses.

In relation to the pay recommendations from the 53rd DDRB report, I have been clear that my intention is to see the pay recommendations from the DDRB report 2025/26 implemented in full. I have issued a Ministerial Direction for the immediate implementation of uplifts. In line with Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI) my department referred my ministerial direction on 30th May to the Department of Finance for the Finance Minister's approval. The Finance Minister has deferred a decision and I have tabled an Executive Paper seeking the collective agreement of Executive colleagues to allow the pay award to proceed.

Regarding the cost-of-service review, this is a critically important piece of work to inform policy decisions around the long term future of the General Dental Service. Regrettably, it has taken longer than anticipated to agree the scope for the review and identify a suitable independent party to conduct the review. This work is now well advanced and my officials are working through the necessary procurement process. My officials will be in position to provide a substantive update on progress in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Nesbitt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Nesbitt MLA
Minister of Health