

**From: Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Mrs Cathy Harrison**



To: All Community Pharmacy Contractors

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Date: 22nd July 2021

Dear Colleague,

PHARMACY FOUNDATION TRAINING YEAR PLACEMENTS

You will be aware of the new mandatory regulatory standards that have been introduced in 2020/21 by the UK Pharmacy Regulators (the General Pharmaceutical Council [GPhC] and the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland [PSNI]). This is part of the reform of the education and training of pharmacists across the UK.

From July 2021, there will be a phased approach to implementation of the new Initial Education and Training standards in relation to both content and delivery, starting with those students finishing their Masters of Pharmacy degree and beginning their fifth year of education and training. The 'Pre-Registration' training year will now be called the 'Foundation Training Year' (FTY) and Pre-Registration Tutors will be called Educational Supervisors.

I am writing to confirm the funding arrangements that have been put in place to enable the future cohort of FTY students to commence their training in July.

This year 2021/22, the Department of Health will be making a total FTY grant of **£24,904** available to each contractor for each student, who will be commencing their placement from July 2021. This will be subject to the regulatory requirements of the Pharmaceutical Society NI (PSNI) being met. The grant will include a salary of **£19,404** for each foundation year trainee, which is an increase of £1,404 per student from last year. The remaining **£5,500** grant should be paid to individual contractors to include a protected employer specific, funding allocation per placement, to cover training and employer on-costs associated with each placement. These amounts should be reduced proportionately in respect of part-time placements.

I wish to advise that this phased approach to the new training will be gradual and carefully managed, with appropriate support provided by the Northern Ireland Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development (NICPLD) and the PSNI throughout the transition period.

All Tutors/Educational Supervisors are crucial to the continuum of the profession and will play a vital role in this exciting phase of development of the pharmacy profession. The Department will continue to work with NICPLD and the PSNI to keep you informed as necessary and up to date with plans for further reforms in 2022/23, throughout the coming year.

In the meantime please accept my sincere thanks to you for continuing to support your tutors and future pharmacists, especially through this period of adjustment.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Cathy Harrison

CC: Joe Brogan, HSCB