

**From Professor Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**



To: All Community Pharmacy Contractors

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Dear Colleague,

Pharmacy Foundation Training Year Placement Grant 2025/26

I am writing to confirm the funding arrangements that have been put in place to enable the next cohort of Pharmacy Foundation Training Year (FTY) students to commence their training this year.

I previously wrote to you in March of this year advising of an increase in the Departmental funding for all Community Pharmacy FTY students, to meet the 2025 National Living Wage Rate, to £12.21/hour for 21 years and older, effective from 1st April 2025.

In line with this uplift, for the 2025/26 intake, the Department of Health will be making a total annual FTY grant of **£28,992** available to each contractor towards the salary of each student, who will be commencing their placement year in Summer 2025. This will be subject to students meeting the regulatory requirements of the Pharmaceutical Society NI (PSNI). The grant will include a salary of **£23,492** (£12.21 x 37 hours x 52 weeks) for each foundation year trainee, to meet the recommended 2025 National Living Wage rate for those over the age of 21 years. The remaining **£5,500** should be paid to individual contractors to include a protected employer specific, funding allocation per placement. This is to cover training and employer on-costs associated with each placement.

The majority of students carrying out their placement year in 2025/26 will spend 6 months of their FTY in Community Pharmacy. Reductions to the amounts laid out above should therefore be made proportionately in respect of part-time or 6-month placements.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

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