

**From Professor Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**



To: All Community Pharmacy Contractors

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Our Ref: HE1/26/122459

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Dear Colleague,

**INCREASE IN DEPARTMENTAL FUNDED PHARMACY FOUNDATION TRAINING YEAR
PLACEMENT ALLOWANCE TO MEET THE 2026 NATIONAL LIVING WAGE**

I am writing to confirm an increase in Departmental funding for all Community Pharmacy Foundation Training Year (FTY) students, to meet the 2026 National Living Wage Rate, to £12.71/hour for 21 years and older.

The **total increased allowance will be a total of £29,954** (£12.21 x 37 hours x 52 weeks) paid to each contractor for each trainee who is currently completing their placement year. This is subject to the regulatory requirements of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland being met. This includes **£24,454** for each full-time foundation year trainee and the remaining **£5,500** is paid to individual contractors to include a protected employer specific funding allocation per placement, to cover educational supervision and employer on-costs associated with each placement. Reductions to these amounts should be made proportionately in respect of part-time or 6-month placements.

I have asked that the Business Services Organisation arrange for payment of the increased hourly student rate **effective from 1st April 2026**.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**

Copy list:

Kathryn Turner, SPPG
Conal O'Connell, SPPG
Tom Coyle, SPPG
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