

IRISH HOSPITAL CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION

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RE: CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Dear,

The IHCA has today (Friday 29th) accepted Mr. Mark Connaughton's invitation to a fresh round of contract negotiations.

- (a) Mr. Connaughton will meet with the Association at Secretariat level later next week.
- (b) We expect bi-lateral negotiations to commence with the IHCA on the week of Monday, July 9th next.
- (c) It is unlikely that plenary sessions will take place before September.

The text of the statement issued by Minister Harney in response to Mr. Connaughton's proposals is attached to this circular.

Yours sincerely,

FINBARR FITZPATRICK
Secretary General

Consultant Contract Negotiations
Minister Harney supports proposals to resume consultant contract
Negotiations

The Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney TD, today announced that she supports proposals from Mr Mark Connaughton, S.C., independent chairman of the negotiations, to resume talks on a new consultant contract.

Mr Connaughton has recommended that bi-lateral talks should commence immediately progressing to full plenary sessions on dates to be agreed in the near future.

The Minister said,

‘Mr Connaughton’s proactive approach offers the prospect of bringing the contract talks to a successful conclusion by early Autumn.

‘There is wide agreement that patients and clients urgently need new consultants. Mr Connaughton’s proposals have also underlined this urgency.

‘Contractual arrangements into the future must be geared to a modernised, reformed health service. My major concern is that patients receive a high standard of consultant-delivered care. We also need more flexibility to provide a more responsive service.’

The Minister concluded,

‘A lot of progress has already been achieved in the talks. Mr Connaughton brought forward a very useful framework document in April. It is time now to build on that progress. I expect that both sides to the negotiations will now work intensively to resolve outstanding issues’.

ENDS

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