

STATEMENT BY THE STAFF SIDE OF THE NHS PAY NEGOTIATING COUNCIL

The NHS Pay Negotiating Council (PNC) meeting held on the 27th April 2007 broke up without any agreement on pay for the 300,000 non-clinical health workers. The five unions had lodged a pay claim in October 2006, calling for an increase significantly above the rate of inflation and a flat rate increase for the lowest three grades (Bands).

The NHS employers' initial response was to indicate that no formal offer would be made until the Pay Review Body (PRB) for nurses and other health professionals had reported.

In the event the PRB recommended a 2.5% increase in February and the Government decided to stage this in two instalments of 1.5% and 1% from November, reducing its value to 1.9%.

The NHS employers wrote to the five unions on 13th March making the same staged offer, albeit a subsequent letter from the Scottish Health Department offered 2.5% from April 2007.

The Trade Union Side of the PNC unanimously rejected the employers' offers and called for serious negotiations and an improved offer. They stated that unless an improved offer was made within a 'reasonable time', then all unions would consider balloting for industrial action.

The Employers' Side said they would need to report back to their own constituents and to government on the situation.

27th April 2007