

# Work in the NHS

July 2015/07

## Agenda for Change Pay Update

## THE GMB CAUTIOUSLY WELCOMES THE NHS PAY REVIEW BODY'S REPORT ON 7 DAY SERVICES

#### **GMB RESPONDS TO THE NHS PRB REPORT**

The NHS PRB report was published on Thursday 16th July, full details of the report can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/412261/10357-OME-NHS Pay Review-ACCESSIBLE.pdf

**The report states** "As it stands the national Agenda for Change pay system is not the principal barrier to achieving the improvements offered by the expansion of seven-day services".

The GMB welcomes the NHS Pay Review Body's report recognition, that the unsocial hours premium is not a barrier to delivering seven day services, as claimed by the Government and NHS Employers.

#### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT INCLUDES**

- 1) The PRB have recognised that the real barrier to delivering 7 day services is the lack of NHS staff available to ensure safe services over seven days.
- **2)** The report highlights the need for staff to be involved in the design and delivery of seven day services as equal partners with managers and patients.
- **3)** The need to consider unsocial hours premia as part of the wider discussions on staff pay terms and conditions.
- **4)** That most staff actually work across seven days and highlights the significant gaps in the Government's data and information to support the delivery of seven day NHS services.

The GMB welcomes the Pay Review Body report, which endorses what trade unions have been saying for some time that - unsocial hours system actually helps to deliver seven day services and is clearly not a barrier as claimed by Jeremy Hunt and NHS employers.

The GMB continues to object to the on-going public sector pay restraint unleashed on the NHS. We can't ignore the reality that the Government is trying to make up for the chronic underfunding for the NHS, by cutting staff pay and conditions. This NHS Pay Review Body report highlights the risks this would bring to patients, it also highlights the impact this would have on staff morale and motivation and would make recruitment and retention of key NHS staff more difficult.

The GMB is campaigning to retain your Agenda for Change pay, terms and conditions join the GMB campaign, sign up today.

## GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

"The NHS PRB concluded that the Agenda for Change pay system was not a barrier to the delivery of seven day services and that more work should be undertaken to understand in more detail how services might be delivered in the future, the workforce implications and transitional arrangements"

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The GMB alongside the health unions have started talks with NHS Employers to review the national AfC agreement. The timetable is to conclude the review by May 2016. Any outcomes will be subject to membership consultations.

Regular briefings are issued to regions. If you would like to be kept updated via email please register your details at nhs@gmb.org.uk

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(£12.14 per month)

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