

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016

To: Trust Directors of Finance

PC85/Care Homes 030216

Dear Colleague

**Re: Support Package for Care Home Sector**

I refer to Health Minister Simon Hamilton's announcement regarding the release of additional funding by the Health and Social Care Board to provide a support package the care sector worth £1.6m from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016.

Over recent months the HSCB has received representations from the independent sector about the pressures which it is facing and, in particular, the increased difficulties it is experiencing in recruiting staff.

In advance of setting the 2016/17 Care Home Tariffs the Board wishes to acknowledge these pressures by providing an additional £11 per week for each resident placed by Trusts (including those already in situ) for the nine week period commencing Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. This is an additional payment outside the current Tariff.

The recognition of these pressures will inform decisions about any eventual uplift to Tariff rates to be applied from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 in order to address proposed changes to staff remuneration rates and recruitment challenges. It would be our intention to provide a notification of any increase in the near future as an indication of our commitment to decisively addressing these issues.

I would be grateful if you could contact your providers to arrange for them to invoice you on a monthly basis, separately from the normal tariff.

Yours sincerely



**Paul Cummings  
Director of Finance**



**Fionnuala McAndrew  
Director of Social Care & Children**

Cc: Trust Directors of Social Care

