

Agenda Item 6

Enclosure 4

Paper RC 21 / 02

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

LETTER FROM MR. G. SUTEHALL TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

From : the Executive

FOR DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT



Laboratories at Cambridge, Chelmsford, Ipswich,
Luton, Norwich, Peterborough

6th August 2002

Mr Marc Seale
Registrar
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
London SE11 4BU

Dear Marc

Medi Placements Ltd

The enclosed came to me in the post, and I thought the HPC should be starting to take an interest in this area, even if protected titles are not yet finalised.

I draw your attention to the second page. In the box there is reference to "NSR MLSO". NSR I understand to mean Non-State Registered. This is the well-known phenomenon whereby staff qualified overseas, many of whom are highly skilled and competent, work for agencies, and fill vacant medical laboratory scientist posts mostly in London hospital labs. (Sometimes they are not qualified at all – I speak from personal knowledge.)

There is currently a good deal of concern amongst the biomedical science community about how these staff should be supervised. There is a common opinion is that they do not need close supervision, but under current/proposed regulatory systems they must have supervision, as if they were unqualified. Others, who perhaps wouldn't admit to their concerns, employ these agency staff as if they were qualified, simply because of the recruitment and retention crisis, and probably because they have too few staff to act as supervisors.

It seems to me that the term "Non-state registered MLSO" is an impossible, self-contradictory title and that it's use is probably illegal. HPC should be making a clear statement now. The agencies as the employers should be left in no doubt about this practice. However, hard-pressed departments of laboratory medicine will not thank the HPC if this source of staff is cut off.

I look forward to your thoughts.


Gordon Sutehall
Council Member

Cc Mr A R Potter, IBMS

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Mr Gordon Sutehall
Lead BMS
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05 July 2002

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

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LOCUM GRADE	HOURLY RATE
MLA	£14.99 - £15.49
NSR/MLSO/MLSO 1	£18.49 - £19.99
MLSO 2	£22.49 - £23.99

Charge rates are inclusive of W.T.R.* and exclusive of National Insurance.

Additional rates for unsociable hours available on request.

*W.T.R. is the abbreviation of the Working Time Directive October 1998, whereby all locum staff are eligible for holiday pay.

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