

Health Service Executive

The Psychiatric Nurses Association (PNA) and SIPTU commenced industrial action on 30 April in pursuit of their claim for the introduction of a compensation scheme for psychiatric nurses injured in the course of their duties. The industrial action, which included a ban on overtime and members working their rostered hours only, was due to be escalated on 15 May.

The Commission invited the parties to exploratory talks on 9 May and after lengthy negotiations over 4 days, tabled proposals to both sides. The planned escalation of industrial action was deferred to allow the proposals to be considered by the Executive Committees of both unions on 16 May. The proposals were accepted by both unions and the industrial action has ended.

The unions were dissatisfied with the terms of a compensation scheme for psychiatric nurses assaulted at work, proposed by management in January. The dissatisfaction centred around the range of injuries covered and the proposed levels of compensation, as well as the fact that the proposed scheme did not cover not cover psychological trauma, or deal with outstanding claims. The revised proposals address all of these areas.