

WORKFORCE POLICY DIRECTORATE



Chief Executives of HSC Bodies¹

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Your Reference: **HSC (GEN) (2) 2026**
Our Reference: HE1/26/389

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General Circular – HSC (GEN) 2/2026

HSC Statutory and Public Holidays 2026/27 – Hospital Medical and Dental Staff

Summary

1. This circular informs HSC Employers of the statutory and public holidays for full time HSC Hospital Medical and Dental staff in Northern Ireland. For staff that work less than full time hours this leave is pro rata.

Action

2. HSC Employers should note the dates listed in Annex A and ensure the guidance set out in this circular is applied to the Holidays listed.

Enquiries

3. Employees should direct personal enquiries to their employer. The Department of Health cannot advise on individuals' personal circumstances.

¹ HSC Trusts, the Public Health Agency (PHA), the Business Services Organisation (BSO), the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service Agency (NIBTS), the Children's Court Guardian Agency for Northern Ireland (CCGANI), the Northern Ireland Practice & Education Council for Nursing, Midwifery & Health Visiting (NIPEC), the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC), the Patient & Client Council (PCC), the Northern Ireland Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) and the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA).

4. Employers should direct enquiries about the content of this Circular to Workforce Policy Directorate, Room D1, Castle Buildings, Belfast or by email: p&e@health-ni.gov.uk

Further Copies

5. Copies of this Circular can be obtained from the Workforce Policy Guidance Section of the Department's website at: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/health-workforce-policy-and-management/workforce-policy-reports-and-guidance>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katherine Ferguson', is displayed on a light gray background.

Katherine Ferguson
Workforce Policy Directorate

Annex A

Statutory and Public Holidays 2026²

The dates of bank and public holidays in Northern Ireland for 2026 are listed below:

Holidays	2026
New Years Day	1 January
St Patrick's Day	17 March
Easter Monday	6 April
Easter Tuesday	7 April
Early May Bank Holiday	4 May
Spring Bank Holiday	25 May
12th July Holiday (alternate)	13 July [#]
(13th) July Statutory Holiday (SAS [^] & Resident Doctors and Dentists *)	14 July [#]
Summer Bank Holiday	31 August
Christmas Day	25 December
Boxing Day (alternate)	28 December ^{##}
(27 th) December Statutory Holiday (SAS [^] & Resident Doctors and Dentists *) (alternate)	29 December ^{###}
Holidays	2027
New Year's Day	1 January

[#] As the 12th July falls on a Sunday during 2026, **Monday 13th July** will be treated as a paid statutory holiday instead of 12th July. Subsequently, **Tuesday 14th July** will be treated as a paid statutory holiday instead of 13th July 2026.

^{##} As the 26th December falls on a Saturday during 2026, **Monday 28th December** will be treated as a paid statutory holiday instead of 26th December.

^{###} As the 27th December falls on a Sunday during 2026, **Tuesday 29th December** will be treated as a paid statutory holiday instead of 27th December.

[^] SAS doctors and dentists on both 2008 and 2021 contracts may by local agreement via (LNC) convert 2 days to annual leave.

* Resident doctors on the 2002 contract may by local agreement (via LNC) convert 2 days annual leave.

² Statutory and Public Holidays listed for the full year, as there are some Medical and Dental staff whose annual leave is still calculated from January each year or from the anniversary of the date of appointment.