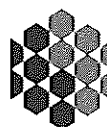


FROM THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,
SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY
Edwin Poots MLA



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 90 520642
Fax: 028 90 520557
Email: private.office@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Mr William Hay MLA
Speaker
The Speaker's Office
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

Our Ref: SUB/257/2014

Date: 24 March 2014

Dear Williams

I am writing to you today to apologise for, and to correct, a factual inaccuracy I inadvertently made in a speech to the Assembly on 27 January 2014.

During the debate on Nurses Staffing Levels in Key Hospital Wards Hansard records that I stated:

".....In March 2013, over 14,000 whole-time equivalent qualified nurses were employed in the HSC representing an increase of more than 300 nurses in the previous year and over 1,600 whole-time equivalent nurses in the five years to March 2013...."

This information was incorrect, the correct line should have been:

".....In March 2013, over 14,000 whole-time equivalent qualified nurses were employed in the HSC representing an increase of more than 300 nurses in the previous year and over 1,600 whole-time equivalent nurses in the ten years to March 2013...."

By way of further clarification for members, there were 14,139.5 whole time equivalent (WTE) qualified nurses/midwives employed in the HSC as at March 2013. This represents an increase of 316.7 between March 2012 and March 2013. Overall, there has been an increase of 1,643 WTE qualified nurses/midwives between March 2003 and March 2013.

I am copying this letter to all members, Hansard and I will also place a copy in the Library.

Edwin Poots MLA
Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety