



## PUBLIC SERVICE EXECUTIVE UNION

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**BC054/16**

29<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Branch Secretary,

I enclose a statement from the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in which he indicates a wish to deal with the issue of Public Service pay in 2 phases.

Phase 1 discussions will deal with the anomalies arising from the recent issues with the Garda associations. These discussions will be completed by the end of January 2017. Phase 2 will await the outcome of the initial report of the Public Service Pay Commission in Q2 2017, which is to make recommendations regarding the unwinding of FEMPI legislation and its impositions on Public Servants, following which the Government is giving a commitment to negotiations in advance of the Budget for 2018.

I enclose also a statement on behalf of the Public Services Committee, (PSC), of the ICTU welcoming these positive developments. The PSC will be meeting again next week.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Geraghty  
General Secretary

To: All Branch Secretaries  
Executive Committee

## **Minister Donohoe outlines two-phased approach to securing future of collective pay agreements**

### **Govt committed to collective approach to setting pay policy as most orderly & affordable way to deliver for public servants & those using public services**

The Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohoe T.D., announced today (29 November) that, following consideration by Government, his Department will invite the parties to the Lansdowne Agreement to discussions under Section 6 (oversight and governance arrangements) of the Agreement. These discussions, which it is expected will conclude before end January next, will seek to address anomalies arising from the recent recommendations issued by the Labour Court in relation to the Industrial Relations disputes with members of An Garda Síochána.

The Government has reiterated its support for the Lansdowne Road Agreement and the collective approach to public service pay issues. The Minister emphasised that the priorities for Government in upcoming discussions will be to:

- secure the continued implementation of the Lansdowne Road Agreement;
- maintain the productivity, industrial peace and stability provided by the Agreement, which are of critical importance to the country and its international reputation; and
- to ensure that issues of mutual concern to the parties are addressed in a fair and reasonable way but, above all, in a manner that safeguards existing government expenditure commitments and the broader fiscal position.

Separate to this process, and as previously stated, the Public Service Pay Commission is expected to deliver its initial report in Q2 2017. This report will provide inputs on how unwinding of FEMPI legislation can be best managed in the context of the national finances. It will also have regard to any particular labour market challenges the Commission identifies and to other conditions of service of public servants including tenure and pension.

The Minister confirmed that once this report is available, the Government intends to initiate negotiations on a successor Collective Agreement ahead of Budget 2018 considerations. These negotiations will deal with the full range of issues including productivity, reform and the issue of affordable increases in pay.

**ENDS**

## **LANSDOWNE ROAD AGREEMENT: STATEMENT FROM THE ICTU PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The ICTU Public Services Committee (PSC) acknowledges and welcomes the Government's decision to invite the parties to the Lansdowne Road Agreement to discussions on issues arising from recent Labour Court recommendations in the garda dispute, and Minister Donohoe's announcement that these discussions will conclude by the end of January 2017.

The PSC, which believes these discussions will provide a platform to seek improvements in the terms of the Lansdowne Road Agreement, is also engaging with the Public Service Pay Commission (PSPC).

The PSPC's forthcoming report is expected to inform the parties to the Lansdowne Road Agreement on how the unwinding of the FEMPI legislation, which introduced pay cuts and the 'pension levy,' can be best addressed during negotiations on a successor to the agreement.

**ENDS**