

Dear Sir / Madam,

I note the below email, inviting submissions regarding upcoming discussions of the Public Service Pay Commission.

I would like to make a short submission. This refers to the Minimum Income Standard Calculator researched, developed, and employed by the Vincentian Partnership to identify minimum income requirements to provide for essentially dignified standards of living relative to an individual or family's location, age, and makeup, etc. Information on this project can be accessed here: <http://www.misc.ie/AboutUs>.

The Vincentian Partnership have, to my knowledge, been engaged to advise public bodies regarding minimum rates of permitted income following declarations of bankruptcy, and these minimum rates have been taken into account and maintained for people obliged to declare themselves bankrupt.

DPER will find that, under the terms of the Minimum Income Standard Calculator, post-Haddington and Lansdowne Road entry-level salary rates for the civil service – my own salary, for instance, circa €21,000 per annum – do not meet the terms of 'minimum income standard'.

This means that my salary, and the salary of hundreds of my colleagues, is quite literally **lower than the income provisions permissible by this State for bankrupt citizens**. Moreover, my salary, and the salary of hundreds of my colleagues, is officially below the minimum threshold identified by the Vincentian Partnership for 'minimum living standards'. My salary, relative to the amount identified by the MISC relative to my personal profile, is about €120 less per week than would be required for me to live 'minimally'. The personal fallout from this low wage – for which I exchange 40 hours a week of labour – is financial struggle and personal humiliation.

My submission is as follows: the MISC should be included in wage negotiations and taken into account when revising public sector wages under the new government. The Vincentian Partnership should also be engaged with. This would at least nominally improve the chances of entry-level civil servants, as well as other grades, being remunerated for their labour to a degree that guarantees 'minimum' standards of living in contemporary Ireland.

Regards,

Niamh Campbell

From: Press Office Public Expenditure and Reform

Sent: 28 July 2016 15:25

Subject: Minister Donohoe invites views about establishment of Public Service Pay Commission

28 July, 2016

Minister Donohoe invites views about establishment of Public Service Pay Commission

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe T.D., today (Thursday) commenced a short public consultation, to run over the coming weeks, about the role and methodology of the Public Service Pay Commission.

Initiating the process, Minister Donohoe said: 'I recently received approval from Government to implement the important commitment in the Programme for Partnership Government to establish an independent advisory body to look at issues on public service pay'.

"This is a topic on which there are many views. For that reason, I intend to canvass the views of all stakeholders including the general public about the role and methodology of the Commission. These views will inform the development of detailed policy proposals."

The Minister also stressed that the Commission would be advisory in nature: "It is vital that the Government retains the ability to negotiate directly with its employees. In no sense will the Commission duplicate the work of the State's existing industrial relations bodies, the Workplace Relations Commission and the Labour Court. Rather, its role will be to provide authoritative and evidence-based analysis on pay matters to assist officials in discharging their negotiation function."

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform will revert to Government with detailed proposals in the autumn, following engagement with key stakeholders, as required under the terms of the Lansdowne Road Agreement.

It is intended that members of the Commission will be appointed through the Stateboards.ie system and that the Commission's findings will be published.

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has advised that submissions can be emailed to pspc.consultation@per.gov.ie until the 28th August 2016. Please be aware that submissions may be published on the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's website.

ENDS