

Dear Mr Maher,

**SUPPLEMENTAL SUBMISSION**

I think it necessary to make the commission aware of the stance being adopted by the **Minister / Department of Public Expenditure & Reform** regarding my suggested disclosure reform.

After a long delay and having initially tried to restrict consideration of the issue the cost of public sector / office holder final salary pensions to the macro level only, I received their firm decline on the grounds of difficulty & lack of any possible behavioural impact that they are somehow able to assess without having any on evidence on which to base their conclusions.

For the record please see their reply & my response set out below.

Regards,

Patrick McGleenan

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Dear Ms O'Connor,

With the passage of time the Public Sector Pay Commission has since received my submission on the matter.

For the record both your assertions seem to evade tackling the issue head on as:

- All public sector accrued final salary benefits data is to hand for application to the disclosure regime that I have suggested and
- Anyone I have mentioned the concept to (including sitting public representatives) recognise the powerful impact of individual disclosure as opposed to macro data (which is ignored by most people & is obviously the way the Minister & his Civil Servants wish things to stay in reality).

I thank you & your Department for replying if even after such along delay, but would express my frustration as a concerned citizen at the lack of rigour in your response to one of the biggest issues facing this country's long-term financial stability and ongoing sense of fairness between citizens regarding the use of State resources.

For the record, in the light of the recent passing of TK Whitaker, I wish to express my disenchantment with the attitude of the incumbent senior leaders of the Public Service for not taking serious steps to address issues facing the country. I am reminded of the occasion when the late Brian Lenihan as Minister for Finance, addressed the Dail & the Nation calling for nothing less than all of us to do our patriotic duty in the emergency belt tightening budget he had just announced, only to be met on his return from the Dail by the Heads of Departments of our Civil Service making the case for their exclusion from such measures, on spurious

grounds of their guaranteed bonus's being removed. I think this encapsulates quite neatly the extent of the gulf that has been created by an "ivory tower" syndrome within the current ranks of the service that insists its liabilities must rank as a preferential claim on the entire State's resources & to hell with the consequences. Whitaker would already be turning in his grave to read your Departments official reply to my simple suggestion and to witness the complete refusal to address any meaningful reform of the disclosure regime in place for public servants & office holders. It just leaves me wondering why I ever bothered contacting a so called "Department of Public Expenditure & Reform" if your default response is to either fob off such engagement with a Citizen of the State by providing a deliberately misleading responses in the first instance followed by point blank refusal to engage in a serious manner with the patent conflicts of interest regarding disclosure of such data to public service employees.

Regards,

Patrick McGleenan

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----- Original Message -----

From: [minister@per.gov.ie](mailto:minister@per.gov.ie)

To: [pmcgleenan@mcgco.ie](mailto:pmcgleenan@mcgco.ie)

Sent: 18/01/2017 09:30:37

Subject: Reply to email regarding Budget/Public Sector Pensions

**An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe**  
**Department of Public Expenditure & Reform**

**Oifig an Aire**  
**Office of the Minister**

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Our Ref: 16/0032/PER

18 January 2017

Mr Patrick McGleenan  
[[pmcgleenan@mcgco.ie](mailto:pmcgleenan@mcgco.ie)]

Dear Mr McGleenan

I have been asked by Mr Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, to reply to your email regarding your proposal to include an actuarial value of pension benefits on public servants' payslips.

The Minister notes your views on this matter.

Calculating each individual's accrued pension benefits on an ongoing basis is not a trivial exercise. In addition, there is nothing to suggest that displaying these individual costs is likely to be more persuasive than macro costings in any analysis.

The Minister has set out his position in this area and has nothing further to add, and apologises for the delay in replying to your email.

Yours sincerely

Michelle O'Connor  
Private Secretary