

Meeting of the Public Service Pay Commission
4th December 2018 at 8.30 am, St. Stephen's Green House.

In attendance

Mr. Kevin Duffy (Chair)

Mr. Michael Kelly

Mr. Seán Lyons

Mr. Peter McLoone

Ms. Joan Curry (Secretary)

Ms. Susan McKiernan (Secretariat)

Ms. Karen Murphy (Secretariat)

Mr. Liam Gleeson (Secretariat)

Mr. Ben Sweeney (Secretariat)

Mr. Dean Watt (Secretariat)

Mr. Colin Menton (DPER)

Mr. Peter Brazel (DPER)

Mr. Tom Clarke (DPER)

Mr. Shay Cody (Public Services Committee, ICTU)

Ms. Sheila Nunan (Public Services Committee, ICTU)

8.30 am The outcome of the Commission's meeting with, and subsequent letter from the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform was discussed which confirmed that the Defence Forces as a whole, should be assessed.

The Secretariat advised that the Employer Submission in relation to the Defence Forces had not yet been received. Accordingly it was not possible to give a precise time frame for completion at this stage. Broadening the external research to encompass all of the Defence Forces would take a certain amount of time, as the research in relation to the already identified specialities in the Defence Forces was almost complete and currently being finalised. Initial discussions had indicated that the researchers would not have the capacity to take on additional work until the middle of January

The draft response to the Department of Defence's request regarding the Flying Officers in the Air Corps was also discussed. A text was agreed by the Commission for issue.

8.50 am The Chair welcomed the DPER officials and Public Services Committee members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. The Chair referenced the last meeting between the parties, earlier in the year where it was agreed that they would meet again to discuss the approach to the next module, on completion of the Module 1 report. The Commission stated that the parameters of Module 2 had been broadened to encompass the whole of the Defence Forces following discussions with the Minister. The Commission stated that its approach had not otherwise changed and that it would be examining recruitment and retention difficulties on an evidential basis. The Commission reiterated that it did not have a mandate to examine pay claims and all of its findings must be compatible with the Public Service Stability Agreement. The Commission indicated that in light of these circumstances, and for a variety of other reasons, including the delay in publication of Module 1 report, the Module 2 report would not be completed until 2019.

It is the ambition of the Commission to finish the report as soon as is practical, but this was subject to a number of key inputs. DPER stated that the Employer Submission would be forwarded in the coming days. The Public Service Committee asked about other submissions forwarded to the Commission, and there was a general discussion about approach post Module 2. It was agreed that the parties would reconvene and timelines for 2019 would be discussed further, when the Employer Submissions had been received.

The DPER and Public Services Committee delegations then departed the meeting.

9.30 am The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and apologies were sent from Noel Dowling, Ultan Courtney, Ruth Curran and Marian Corcoran.

Next meeting, Tuesday 15 January 2019.

Action points

- Issue letter to the Minister on the Flying Officers in the Air Corps.
- Formally issue a reminder requesting the Employer Submission from DPER if Submission is not received by next week.

Noel Dowling
5th February 2019.