

**Reference No:** P18/11/90; **Date:** 05/10/90

**Circular 25/1990:- Refund of Marriage Gratuities in the Civil Service**

A Dhuine Uasail,

I am directed by the Minister for Finance to say that he has accepted an agreed recommendation made by the General Council under the scheme of conciliation and arbitration for the Civil Service, about the amendment of the rules governing the refund of marriage gratuities paid to civil servants, as set out in paragraphs 8 to 10 of DPS Circular 37/75 (General Council Report 1178 refers).

2. Accordingly, with effect from 1 March 1990, paragraphs 8 to 10 of DPS Circular 37/75 should be amended to read as follows:

"8 Officers re-appointed to the civil service in a pensionable capacity may refund any marriage gratuity previously paid to them, and by virtue of such refund, pensionable service reckoned previously for marriage gratuity will be aggregated with subsequent pensionable service for superannuation purposes.

9 For the purpose of the refunds referred to above, marriage gratuities will, in respect of the period between the original date of payment and the date of repayment, be uprated by reference to compound interest, at the rate of 3% per annum in respect of periods prior to 31 March 1971 and 6% per annum thereafter.

- 10 (a) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 9 above, a marriage gratuity may be refunded -
- (i) by deduction from retirement lump sum or death gratuity, or
  - (ii) by means of a single lump sum payment, or
  - (iii) on an instalment basis.

(b) In the case of repayment of instalment, the amount of each instalment must not be less than one month's gross pay. Compound interest will be charged on the reducing balance at the rate of 6% per annum."

3. The provisions of this Circular, which supercede all previous arrangements governing the refund of marriage gratuities by civil servants, apply to any officer (other than an officer referred to in paragraph 11 of DPS Circular 37/75) who was or is re-appointed in a pensionable capacity, having previously been paid a marriage gratuity, and who has not refunded that gratuity in its entirety prior to 1 March 1990. The Circular should be brought to the attention of all such officers now serving in your Department/Office, and to any future appointees to whom it applies.

4. Any doubts or difficulties concerning this Circular should be referred in writing to the Pensions Section of this Department.

Mise, le meas,  
J. Mc Govern  
Assistant Secretary