

Reference No: E109/47/87; **Date:** 02/05/91

Circular 19/1991:- Reduction in hours of work of general service grades represented by the Federated Union of Government Employees

A Dhuine Uasail

I am directed by the Minister for Finance to refer to Civil Service Arbitration Board Report 530, concerning a claim for a reduction in conditioned hours of attendance to 41 hours a week for grades represented by the Federated Union of Government Employees' and to say that agreement has been reached on the implementation of the finding contained in paragraph 19(g) of the Report.

2. I am accordingly to convey sanction for the implementation of a 41 hour (gross) week, with effect from 22 April 1991, for the grades of Head Messenger, Messenger and Services Attendant. Daily starting and finishing times will, as heretofore, be fixed at Departmental level. However, Departments/Offices in which members of these grades do not at present have a normal finishing time of 5.30pm should consider whether having regard to the work requirements of the grades, it would be feasible to adopt 5.30pm (5.15pm on Friday) as the normal finishing time for each or any of the grades.

3. Departments/Offices must have specific regard to the recommendation in paragraph 19(g) of Report 530 that the 41 hour week should be implemented on such basis as will "avoid any significant additional cost to the Exchequer".

4. Consequent on the introduction of the 41-hour week, the overtime arrangements of the grades concerned will also be revised with effect from 22 April 1991. As from that date, the overtime rates applicable to the grades referred to in this Circular will be as set out in Section III of the Appendix to Circular 7/87, the basic hourly rate being calculated by dividing basic weekly pay by 41 (rather than 44 as heretofore).

5. It has been agreed that the arrangements for the implementation of the 41 hour week will be reviewed at a later date.

6. Any queries from Departments/Offices relating to this Circular should be referred to this Department (ext. 3539 or 3565). Queries from individual officers should be directed to the Personnel Units of the employing Departments/Offices.

Mise le meas
J McGovern