

Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1343

(Meeting/s of 18 December 1997, 28 January 1998, 27 January 1999)

That the provisions relating to early retirement on health grounds be extended so that similar facilities be made available in the event of serious long term illness of his/her spouse/partner.

1. The Staff Side said that the claim deals with the hardship that can arise in the case of a serving officer who resigns to care for the spouse who is suffering from a long term illness. In the normal course, preserved benefits would not be payable until the officer reaches 60 years of age. This could give rise to hardship in the intervening period. In order to deal with this situation, the Staff Side said that such an officer should be allowed to retire on ill-health grounds.

2. The Official Side said that the claim was outside the bounds of what could be considered to be relevant to an occupational pensions scheme. Ill-health retirement can only apply in the case of officers who must retire for health reasons. Such retirement is subject to certification by the Chief Medical Officer who certifies that the officer in question is medically unfit for work and that the condition is likely to be permanent.

The Official Side also pointed out that, if the claim was granted, it would lead to claims to extend it to other domestic situations e.g sick children, aging parents etc.

3. The Staff Side asked that a report recording disagreement be prepared.

4. The report, recording disagreement, was adopted on 27 January 1999.

This report was adopted on 27 January 1999