

Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1451

(Meeting/s of 23 February 2005, 25 May 2005)

To seek additional confidential support services, such as an enhanced Employee Assistance Service, to be put in place for staff who may experience;- changes affecting them over which they have no control; major life changing personal decisions that have to be made; major change and adjustment for children and partners; negotiations, serious decisions and possibly conflict at home; and /or, increased levels of stress, as a result of the Government's public service relocation programme.

1. The Employee Assistance Service (EAS), which is a work-based, comprehensive, professional support service for the staff of the civil service, have indicated that they are in a position to provide a support service to staff in the context of the decentralisation programme. They have set up a subcommittee of EAOs to consider how to focus their efforts. The first of a number of information leaflets, covering the topic of managing change, prepared by the EAS on issues arising in relation to decentralisation, has been circulated to staff.
2. As well as this focused support in the context of the decentralisation programme, the EAS is continuing on an ongoing basis to deal with the full range of personal and work-related difficulties as listed in the claim.
3. The Decentralisation Implementation Committee in its second Report published in July 2004, recognised that a professional and comprehensive service should be provided to assist decentralising staff with issues that might arise in relation to relocation. The Committee recommended that the Department of Finance approach the market seeking expressions of interest for the supply of services such as auctioneering, legal, relocation and other relevant services to support and assist staff moving to any of the centres under the Public Service Decentralisation Programme. The Department of Finance advertised for such expressions of interest in the national press on Monday 8 December 2004. The Department is now reviewing the applications received and will be circulating staff with information on the services being offered.
4. This report, recording agreement, was adopted on 25 May 2005

Agreed report, recording agreement.

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