

Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1453

(Meeting/s of 29 June 2005)

Subsistence Formulae and Rates

1. The Staff Side are seeking an increase in the Domestic Subsistence Rates with effect from 1 January 2004 on the basis of the agreed formula. (Staff Side)
2. That subsistence payments be made to all officers who spend in excess of five hours from the office on official duties, irrespective of distance. (Staff Side)
3. That the methodology and constituent elements of the formulae used to determine civil service mileage and domestic subsistence allowances, and revision of those allowances be amended. (Official Side)
4. That revision of motor mileage allowances and domestic subsistence allowances should, in future, take place without any element of retrospection. (Official Side)

Background

1. Negotiations on the above subsistence claims have been ongoing for some time at the Travel and Subsistence Subcommittee. Based on the progress of discussions in 2004 it was agreed that an interim agreed report (1445) would be drawn up outlining progress to date and setting out where agreement had been reached. This interim agreement was signed on 20 July 2004. It committed both sides to continue meaningful negotiations. It also provided for increases in the day and night subsistence rates with effect from 1 September 2004.

2. Following on from discussions since the agreed interim report, the following has been agreed with regard to the domestic subsistence formula and rates.

Domestic Subsistence Rates

Background

3. The domestic subsistence rates are calculated by reference to changes in the accommodation prices of an agreed list of 100 hotels. Hotels are replaced where any of the 100 hotels are no longer operating, if the class of the hotel changes or if there are significant changes in the price being charged from one year to the next in a given hotel.

Interim Agreed Report 1445 (2004)

4. In 2004, as a result of the changes in the price of accommodation since 2003 the day and night subsistence allowances were increased by 1.78%. The increases took effect from 1 September 2004. It was also agreed that in future any changes to the rates of subsistence would be effective from 1 July of the year in which the change was to take place, that the Class C rate of overnight subsistence rate would no longer apply from 1 September 2004 and that the B rate will subsequently apply to staff in all grades by only applying 40% of any increase due to the Class A rate of subsistence.

Negotiations since 2004

5. Following further discussions at the Travel and Subsistence subcommittee the following was agreed between the Staff and Official Side:

- That the day subsistence rates would be reviewed by movement in the "eating out" element of the Consumer Price Index which included movements in the price of lunch and dinner in cafés, restaurants and bistros etc. It is agreed that as the purpose of the day subsistence rates is to provide for lunch and/or dinner this is a more appropriate method of calculating the movement in the cost of each rather than movements in the price of hotel accommodation.
- With effect from 1 July 2006, a night allowance will not generally be payable for an absence within 48.27 km (30 miles) of an officer's home or headquarters. Previously, the rule had been 24.14 km (15 miles). During the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, a reduced distance of 36.20 km (22.5 miles) shall apply for absences from an officer's home or headquarters. However, in exceptional circumstances and where a department is satisfied that an operational need exists, a night allowance may be paid for an absence on duty at any place within the above distance limits but in excess of 24.14 km (15 miles) of home or headquarters.
- It was agreed that the distance requirement for the payment of a day allowance should be reduced from 5 miles to 5 kilometres from an officer's home or headquarters.

Review of Domestic Subsistence rates for 2005

6 Following a review of the overnight subsistence rates for 2005, 11 hotels needed to be replaced for a variety of reasons. The list of accommodation that needed to be changed is listed in Appendix II. Following a review of the overnight subsistence rates using the new formula the Class B rates falls to be increased by 4.25% with the Class A rate increasing by 40% of this increase i.e. 1.70%.

7. The meal allowances (or the day subsistence rates) are being increased by the movement in the eating out element of the Consumer Price Index which for the period March 2004 to March 2005 gives an increase of 3.74%.

8. The revised day and night subsistence rates are set out in Appendix I and are effective from 1 July 2005.

9. This report was adopted on 29 June 2005.

Eric Gargan Joan Byrne
Official Side Secretary Staff Side Secretary

Appendix 1 for agreed report 1453

Domestic Subsistence rates from 1st July 2005				
Overnight rates				
Day Rates				
Class of Allowances	Normal Rate	Reduced Rate	Detention Rate	10 hours or more 5 hours but less than 10 hours
A Class	€138.41	€127.60	€69.19	€40.01
B Class	€127.49	€109.04	€63.77	€40.01

Appendix 2 of agreed report 1453.

List of Replacement Hotels.

REPLACEMENT GRADE DELETED GRADE REASON

Co Cavan

The Park Hotel 3* Riverfront Hotel 2* Price change

Co Cork

Country Club Hotel 3* Travelodge Unclass Price change

Co Dublin

Clifton Court Hotel Unclass Jurys Inn 3* Price change

Maple Hotel 2* Capri Hotel 2* No longer listed

Co Galway

Rockbarton Park 3* Rockland Hotel 1* No longer listed

Co. Kerry

Ballygarry House 4* Brandon Hotel 3* Price change

Co. Longford

Shannonside GH 3* Park House Hotel 2* No longer listed

Co. Louth

Boyne Valley Hotel 3* Boyne Valley Hotel 3* Price change

Co. Mayo

Ostan Gob a Choire Unclass Wave Crest Hotel 1* No longer listed

Co. Meath

Old Darnley Lodge 2* Headfort Arms Unclass Price change

Co. Monaghan

Breffni Guesthouse 2* Shirley Arms Hotel 2* No longer listed.

Agreed report, recording agreement.

This report was adopted on 29 June 2005