

Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1492

(Meeting/s of 26 September 2007, 28 November 2007)

That relocation expenses be paid to civil servants relocating voluntarily under the decentralisation programme

Basis of claim: The employees in the Marine Institute (MI) who voluntarily relocated to Galway were awarded €3,750 for moving by the Labour Court.

View of the Staff Side

1. The Staff Side had made the claim following the decision of the Labour Court to award €3,750 to each employee of the Marine Institute who had voluntarily moved from Dublin to Galway. The Staff Side are of the view that the Labour Court decision provides a precedent for the current decentralisation programme which is also a voluntary scheme and are of the view that an allowance should be paid to staff decentralising to provincial locations.

Cost of the Claim

2. Conceding the claim would cost in the region of €39m (€3,750 x 10,470 staff decentralising).

Views of the Official Side

The Official Side rejected the claim for the following reasons:

- There is a long standing Government decision in place since 1983 that disturbance payments for the relocation of a person's place of work should not be paid.
- The decision announcing the decentralisation programme in Budget 2004 (3 December 2003) made clear that as with all previous decentralisations the payment of removal or relocation expenses would not be paid.
- The Labour Court in its conclusion on the Marine Institute clearly distinguished the situation in that case from the general decentralisation programme by reference to factors particular to the case of the Institute. .

Disagreement recorded

3. This report records disagreement on the claim and was adopted at meeting held on 28 November 2007

Agreed report recording disagreement

This report was adopted on 28 November 2007