

Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1531

(Meetings of 22 January 2014, 13 February 2014, 16 June 2014, 12 January 2015, 24 February 2015 & 25 March 2015)

1. The Haddington Road Agreement [para 2.28] states that *"The Parties note that the Government intends to review travel and subsistence arrangements. There will be full co-operation by the Parties with the review and the implementation of a standardised system of travel and subsistence across the Public Service."*
2. It was agreed that the best way to approach the review of Travel and Subsistence arrangements as set out in the HRA would be to initially review Travel and Subsistence in the Civil Service and that once agreement was achieved here it would then be applied, or equivalent measures, across other parts of the Public Service.
3. This report records agreement between the Staff and Official Side with regard to the review of Subsistence in the civil service and commits both sides to reach agreement on the review of the Travel regime within six months of this agreement.
4. It is noted that the Government decided to reduce Travel and Subsistence Rates by 25% from 5 March 2009 as part of an extensive costing cutting package.

Overnight Domestic Subsistence Rate

5. Arising from the negotiations it has been agreed that the Domestic Overnight Subsistence Rate will be increased from the current rate of €108.99 to €125.00 from 1 July 2015.
6. With effect from 1 July 2015, an overnight allowance will not generally be payable for an absence on official business that is within 100 km of an officer's home or headquarters. However, an overnight allowance may be paid for an absence on official business at any place within the above distance limits but in excess of 50 km where exceptional circumstances, such as extreme weather conditions which would raise Health and Safety concerns, or operational needs arise such as a situation where the meeting that the officer is attending does not finish until 8 pm and they could not be expected to return home. It could also include the situation where an officer is spending more than one day away at a location less than 100 km but it would cost less or significantly reduce the loss of official time if the officer does not return to their HQ or home and an overnight is paid.
7. The Class B rate will also no longer apply from 1 July 2015. The new Domestic Subsistence Rates are set out in appendix 1.
8. The overnight rate will be reviewed annually from 2016 by using the "eating out" and "accommodation" element of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

9. Adjustments will only be applied to the overnight rate where the annual increase/decrease exceeds 5% - where this adjustment does not exceed 5% it is brought forward to the next review and added to the outcome of that review (i.e. cumulative).
10. The review period is 1 March to 30 March of the following year (a 13 month period).

Day Subsistence Rates

11. With effect from 1 July 2015, a day allowance will not generally be payable for an absence on official business that is within 8 km of an officer's home or headquarters. Also the 5 hour rate will be increased from €13.71 per day to €14.01 per day also from 1 July 2015.
12. There will be no further reviews of the Day Subsistence Rates until 2018. Thereafter the day rates would be reviewed using the "eating out" element of the Consumer Price Index and adjustments will only be applied where the annual increase/decrease exceeds 5% - where this does not exceed 5% it is brought forward to the next review and added to the outcome of that review (i.e. cumulative).
13. The review period is 1 March to 30 March of the following year (a 13 month period).
14. These changes will initially only apply to the civil service. A separate note will issue re travel and subsistence in other areas of the Public Service.

Review of Travel Rates

15. Both sides have agreed to continue meaningful negotiations on the review of the Travel rates. It is also agreed that the elements of the Travel rates would be reviewed over the 6 months following this agreement, with third party assistance if required, to take account of improved car engineering and technology and improvements in the road infrastructure. The elements to be looked at would include, but would not be limited to, the residual value of cars; insurance; diesel v petrol cars; miles per gallon etc.
16. There will therefore be no change in the Travel Rates applicable from 5 March 2009.
17. This agreed report was adopted on 23 April 2015.

Signed: Geraldine McCarthy
Official Side

Signed: Gerry Malone
Staff Side

Appendix 1 for Agreed Report 1531

Domestic Subsistence rates from 1st July 2015				
Overnight rates			Day Rates	
Normal Rate	Reduced Rate	Detention Rate	10 hours or more	5 hours but less than 10 hours
€125.00	€112.50	€62.50	€33.61	€14.01