To the Chief Executive Officer of each Vocational Education Committee

Revised Pay for General Operatives and Related Grades Employed in Vocational Educational Committees with effect from 1 March 2008

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

I am directed by the Minister for Education and Science to refer to the application in the education sector of the terms Towards 2016 and to the General Operative and related grades pay agreement, and to convey the approval of the Minister for the implementation of the revised pay rates for General Operative and related grades employed in your scheme, as set out in the schedule to this circular letter, with effect from 1 March 2008. This letter will be made available on the Department’s website (www.education.ie), under Post Primary Division.

The revised pay rates have been introduced as a result of the implementation of Section 27.17 of Towards 2016, which provides for an increase of 2.5% with effect from 1 March 2008.

The payment of the increase is dependent on verification of co-operation with flexibility and ongoing change, satisfactory implementation of the agenda for modernisation, maintenance of stable industrial relations and absence of industrial action in respect of any matters covered by the Towards 2016 agreement. The Secretary General, in consultation with the Education Sector Performance Verification Group (ESPVG), which carried out an assessment of the extent of progress and co-operation reported by the VEC Partnership Forum, has decided that the level of progress achieved during the period warrants the payment of the relevant pay increase.

Part time staff
The pay of part-time staff may be revised, in accordance with the normal arrangements, by reference to the pay of whole-time staff to which they are related for pay purposes.
**Pensions**

Pensions in the course of payment on 29th February 2008 in respect of former General Operatives and related grades in your scheme may be adjusted, as appropriate, by reference to the revised pay scales as set out in the schedule to this letter.

**General**

Please provide a copy of this letter to staff members, as appropriate. Any queries, at VEC level, regarding the implementation of the letter should be addressed to Post Primary Administration 3, Athlone (Tel: 09064 83768, Fax: 09064 84058).

Conor McCourt  
Post Primary  
March 2008

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