

Reference No: E109/65/78; **Date:** 20/11/90

Circular 30/1990:- Credit for proficiency in both Irish and English in confined promotion competitions

A Dhuine Uasail

1. I am directed by the Minister for Finance to convey the following instructions to Departments arising out of his acceptance of an agreed recommendation of the General Council, under the Scheme of Conciliation and Arbitration (Main Scheme), concerning the credit to be awarded for proficiency in both Irish and English in confined promotion competitions.

2. The revised credit system provides as follows:

(a) the system for awarding credit for proficiency in Irish and English at written promotion competitions will be equivalent to the system applicable to interview competitions;

(b) the level of the proficiency bonus will be reduced;

(c) subject to certain transitional arrangements (referred to below), continued entitlement to the proficiency bonus will entail periodic retesting of a candidate's proficiency.

3. To give effect to the above the following arrangements shall be substituted for the arrangements provided for in paragraph 5(3) (interview competitions) and 6 (written competitions) of Circular 43/75:

(i) no credit shall be awarded unless proficiency has been established in the manner provided for in paragraph 5(2) of Circular 43/75 within 10 years of the closing date for applications for the competition (but see (iv) below);

(ii) a credit amounting to 6% of the marks available for the competition shall be awarded where proficiency has been established in the manner provided for in paragraph 5(2) of Circular 43/75 within 5 years of the closing date for applications for the competition;

(iii) a credit amounting to 3% of the marks available for the competition shall be awarded where proficiency has been established in the manner provided for in paragraph 5(2) of Circular 43/75 more than 5 years but less than 10 years before the closing date for applications for the competition;

(iv) as a transitional arrangement, officers who, at the date of issue of this Circular, have established proficiency in the manner provided for in paragraph 5 (2) of Circular 43/75 will retain an entitlement to claim a credit of 6% of the marks available for the competition for as long as they remain in the grade in which they are serving at the date of issue of this Circular.

4. The above arrangements will apply to all confined promotion competitions whether they are by way of interview or written examination.

5. The revised arrangements provided for in this Circular will apply to competitions announced after the date of issue of this Circular.

Mise le meas
J McGovern
Assistant Secretary