

Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1295

(Meeting/s of 28 November 1990, 26 September 1990, 27 June 1990, 28 June 1995, 27 September 1995)

Claim that members have the right to become active members of political parties and engage in both local and national politics as is the case of our fellow colleagues in other European Union countries.

(1) The Official Side in response to the claim said that

(i) Restrictions have traditionally been imposed on civil servants engaging in political activity to ensure public confidence in the political impartiality of the civil service.

(ii) There is a danger that greater freedom to get involved in political activity would lead to civil servants being compromised in the performance of their official duties.

(iii) the relationship and trust between Ministers and their civil service advisors could be lost if the latter were identified with a particular political view-point.

(iv) Could lead to a "spoils" system of appointments to the detriment of the merit system which currently operates.

(2) In the circumstances the Official said that it was not proposed to make any concession in response to the claim.

(3) Following further discussion it was agreed to recommend that a report recording disagreement, be drawn up.

This report accordingly records disagreement.

(4) The report was adopted on 27 September 1995.

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