

Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1324

(Meeting/s of 24 November 1993, 26 January 1994, 25 September 1996, 18 December 1997)

Claim that the Spouses' and Children's Pension Scheme be amended to provide for payment in respect of children up to age 24 where they are undergoing full time education or training.

General Council Report No. 1324

Staff Side claim that the Spouses and Childrens Pension scheme be amended to provide for payment in respect of Children up to age 24 when they are undergoing full-time education.

1. This claim was discussed at General Council and the Working Party on Superannuation on the following dates :

General Council - 24 Nov 1993; 26 Jan 1994; 25 Sept 1996.
Working Party - 7 Feb 1994; 10 June 1994; 14 October 1994;
15 December 1994; 28 Feb 1995; 11 May 1995; 28 July 1995;
20 Oct 1995; 2 Feb 1996; 4 April 1996; 27 June 1996; 19 Sept
1996; 5 Dec 1996; 13 Mar 1997; 12 June 1997; 11 Sept 1997;
4 Dec 1997.

2. Staff Side Case:

In making this case the Staff Side pointed out that, notwithstanding state supports, there were significant costs involved in providing 3rd level Education and Training. The Staff Side contended that access to such education and training is now the norm rather than the exception in the present employment situation and that the Spouses and Childrens Contributory Scheme requires amendment to reflect this reality. They also argued that:

- (1) the transition year at second-level means that children are going into third-level education at a later age and in many cases are still in full-time education at age 21
- (2) private sector schemes allow the payment of childrens pensions up until age 23 and occasionally until age 25, while in full-time education. The Staff Side presented details in relation to three named private sector schemes

- (3) the cost of allowing the claim would be low
- (4) recent changes in the Social Welfare Code in relation to the upper age limit for childrens benefits.

3. **The Official Side** pointed out that public sector schemes, as a whole, offer terms more favorable than those offered in the private sector.

However, in the circumstances, they were prepared to agree that, with effect from 1 January 1997 that the Civil Service Spouses and Childrens Scheme be amended to provide for payment in respect of children up to age 22 where they are undergoing full-time education or training.

4. This offer was accepted by the Staff Side at the meeting of the Working Party on Superannuation on 4 December 1997.

5. This report accordingly records such agreement.

6. This report was adopted on 18 December 1997.

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