

Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1413

(Meeting/s of 27 November 2002)

Availability of e-mail facilities for CPSU Branch representatives in Offices where e-mails are installed.

[1] Background

The purpose of the claim was to ensure the availability of internet e-mail facilities for CPSU Branch Representatives so that the CPSU HQ can issue information, updates, etc. via e-mail and electronic attachments. The claim was presented to General Council on 28 March 2001 and was discussed again at General Council on 30 May 2001. Based upon responses received from all Departments and Offices the official side proposed the arrangements set out in Section 2 below.

[2] Arrangements for provision of e-mail facilities

Departments/Offices will make external e-mail facilities available to CPSU Branch Representatives where such e-mail systems are installed subject to the conditions hereunder:

1. The CPSU representatives must be working in an area which is serviced by a computer network with e-mail facilities.
2. The e-mail facilities available via the network must be external, i.e. Internet e-mail as opposed to internal e-mail.
3. In deciding on the appropriateness of providing external e-mail to CPSU Branch Representatives, the Department/Office must ensure that its provision will not impact on the optimum performance of its business systems.
4. Where 1., 2. and 3 are met, the CPSU Branch Representatives must make a formal application for the provision of internet e-mail facilities and agree to be bound by the normal rules relating to e-mail use.
5. Applications for provision of internet e-mail facilities will be subject to approval in the normal way.

The official side confirmed that the provision of e-mail facilities as described in the above statement will operate in a manner such that staff's

access to e-mail facilities will not be on a less favourable basis that they enjoyed before the claim was lodged.

The official side also added that practical considerations may limit the extent to which external e-mail facilities may be provided, especially in the case of larger Departments/Offices which have offices throughout the country. Generally, in such cases, e-mail facilities are available on a group rather than an individual basis in the smaller provincial offices. The Departments/Offices in question will provide external e-mail facilities to a small number of CPSU Branch Representatives. A decision on the number of CPSU Branch Representatives to be provided with external e-mail connections will be subject to application and management approval in the normal manner.

General Council agreed this report.

This report was adopted on 27 November 2002.

Agreed report

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