

Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1439

(Meeting/s of 25 February 2004, 28 April 2004)

A claim for compensation for the relocation of the State Laboratory and Department of Agriculture and Food Laboratories.

1. The State Laboratory and the Agricultural Laboratories at Abbotstown are to move to a new location at Backweston, almost 10 miles away.
2. IMPACT lodged a claim "for compensation to all Grades represented by the Union who will be forced to move location from Abbotstown to Backweston". This has now become a panel claim by all the unions involved.
3. The stated basis of the claim is that "substantial additional cost, inconvenience and disruption will be involved for those staff who are compulsorily moved from Abbotstown to Backweston".
4. The Official Side's position is that it is bound by the Government decision in 1983 that the payment of disturbance compensation in public sector employments should be discontinued for moves on or after 1 January 1984.
5. Discussions with all the unions concerned took place in a sub-committee of General Council. The staff side expanded on its claim in which it is seeking concession of a number of additional specific claims, as listed here with a summary of the Official Side's response:
 - Voluntary Early Retirement: The Staff Side sought a general VER package which could not be made available. The Official side offered to consider particular hardship cases on a red-circled basis which it invited the staff side to raise; no such cases have been raised.
 - Option to transfer to other Departments: The Staff Side sought the option for staff to transfer to other Departments; the Official Side agreed that this option would be available to general service grades, but that it could present problems in the case of technical and professional staff.
 - Maintenance of current earnings: The Staff Side did not expand on this issue to provide details of what was being sought here. The Official Side pointed out that a complaint for loss of earnings could be lodged under C&A Scheme if appropriate.
6. The Official Side maintained its position that it was bound by the

Government decision that no disturbance payments should be made in public sector employments. The Staff Side requested that disagreement be recorded on the claim.

7. This report recording disagreement was adopted on 28 April 2004

Agreed report, recording disagreement.

This report was adopted on 28 April 2004