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Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1516

(Meeting/s of 30 July 2008, 29 October 2008, 17 December 2008)

To provide eye tests for all officers on a biennial basis

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**(Meeting 30 July 2008, 29 October 2008)**

**Claim: To provide eye tests for all officers on a biennial basis**

Paragraph 7 of circular 3/1994 "Safety, Health and Welfare at work (General Application) Regulation, 1993; requirement for work with display screen equipment and visual display units" covers the current arrangements for staff. It allows staff to have tests after intervals of five years when they are under 40 years of age and intervals of two years thereafter.

In addition employees have the right to an eyesight test before taking up work, if it is habitual work with a VDU, as well as at regular intervals thereafter if required. In determining the interval, factors such as the age of the employees and the intensity of VDU work are taken into account in deciding repeat tests.

Civil servants who pay full PRSI also have entitlements to regular eye tests.

The Civil Service is in full compliance as an employer with the high standards demanded by Health & Safety Authority which were updated as recently as 2007. It is considered that the biennial eye test for officers under 40 is unnecessary. As the provision of additional eye tests would incur a cost, this would be considered a cost-increasing claim under section 27.7 of Towards 2016.

The staff side asked that a report recording disagreement be prepared.

This report, recording disagreement, was adopted on 17 December 2008.

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Aengus O'Riain  
Official Side Secretary

Joan Byrne  
Staff Side Secretary

Agreed Report recording disagreement