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Civil Service Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme

General Council Report 1520

(Meeting/s of 30 September 2009)

General Council Report concerning a Revision in the Travel and Subsistence rates for 2009

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General Council Report 1520 concerning a Revision in the Travel and Subsistence rates for 2009.

(Meetings of 25 March 2009, 24 June 2009 and 30 September 2009).

Staff Side Claim: That the travel and subsistence rates are reviewed in accordance with the agreed formula under General Council Reports.

Basis of claim: General Council agreed reports 1453/1454 allows for a review on an annual basis in accordance with the agreed formulae.

Staff Side Position

1. The staff side expressed their dissatisfaction with the decision of the Government to reduce the travel and subsistence rates by 25% and indicated that such unilateral action was unacceptable and meant officers were out of pocket.
2. The staff side also asked that the review of the travel and subsistence as provided for in General Council reports 1453 and 1454 should be undertaken for 2009 using the agreed methodology.

Official Side Position

3. The decision that domestic travel and subsistence rates should be reduced by 25% was taken by the Government as part of a package of measures to achieve a saving of €1.4 billion savings on the public service pay bill having regard to the economic and budgetary difficulties being experienced.
4. The reductions applied in March 2009 were therefore based on a Government decision. In this regard, Paragraph 2 of the Civil Service Conciliation & Arbitration scheme states that the provisions of the Scheme do not prevent the Government from acting in the exercise of their constitutional authority and the discharge of their responsibilities in the public interest. The Official Side said that in the foregoing circumstances, a review of the kind sought by the Staff Side was not warranted.
5. This report recording disagreement on the claim was signed on 21 October 2009.

Report recording disagreement