

Meeting of the Implementation Body on Thursday 15 July 2010

Present: PJ Fitzpatrick (Chair), Oonagh Buckley (Secretary).

Public Service Unions: Shay Cody, Patricia King, Tom Geraghty, Sheila Nunan,

Public Service Management: Ciaran Connolly, Brendan Duffy, Philip Kelly,

1. The minutes of the previous meeting on 5 July were agreed.
2. The Body discussed a letter received from the Health Services Staff Panel about a dispute in relation to engagement on the implementation of the Public Service Agreement in the health sector. It was agreed that the matter underscored the need for sectoral arrangements to be established. The members agreed on the reply to be issued.
3. The members agreed drafting changes to a protocol on the Body's involvement in implementation issues.
4. The members discussed the arrangements to be put in place to advance the sectoral agreements. It was agreed that the format of the sectoral arrangements could vary across the sectors. The necessary consultations would take place over the next weeks with a view to having the sectoral bodies in place as soon as possible. An independent chair would be necessary in some instances (health, local government), even where existing industrial relations structures were in place. It was agreed also that it would be desirable to establish a separate group for the prison service, under an independent chair. Further consideration would have to be given to the appropriate arrangements for the education sector. It was considered also that a special ad hoc subgroup(s) of General Council could probably handle the civil service and state agencies. The intention to establish parallel arrangements for the Gardai and Defence sectors was noted.
5. There was a brief discussion on issues relating to the savings that would need to be secured in advance of the pay review next spring.
6. The Chair indicated that he intended to meet various key bodies in September. A meeting would be sought with the LRC and Labour Court to discuss the implications for them of the Agreement.

7. It was agreed that a draft reporting tool on action plans to issue to Departments would be prepared for consideration by the Body. Reporting would be on a sectoral basis. It would be influenced by the estimates process and other parallel efficiency measures.

8 A suggestion by the Labour Relations Commission that a dispute on waste collection in the local government sector should be referred to the Body was discussed. The Body took the view that this would not be appropriate and that such disputes should be dealt with by the normal industrial relations machinery. The Body considered that since this dispute was already before the Labour Relations Commission, it should continue to be dealt with in that forum.

9 The next meeting of the Body will be held on 9 September 2010.