

Meeting of the Implementation Body on Thursday 9 September 2010

Present: PJ Fitzpatrick (Chair), Peter Brazel & Victoria Cahill (Secretariat).

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

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

Apologies: Tom Geraghty

1. Minutes of the previous meeting on 15 July were agreed.
2. Chair briefed members on his recent meetings with management & unions since they last met – summarised minutes of these meetings to be circulated by Secretariat. Key issues raised included:
 - Interaction with the Labour Court to be adopted on disputes.
 - The approach by those unions who have not agreed to the Agreement.
 - Management/Union relations in the sectors, and the need to build trust.
 - Management would need to bring forward proposals, and consultation on those cannot be regarded as renegotiation. In terms of the action plans, service improvements where there are non cash savings should be captured in returns.
 - Establishment of parallel arrangements for Gardaí / Defence Forces.

The Chair recommended that the Secretariat seek to ascertain the level of “residual” cases currently before the Labour Court and circulate information to members for discussion at meeting with the Labour Court on 27th September next.

4. The Secretariat updated members on:
 - establishing sectoral arrangements
 - issuing sectoral reporting arrangements and acting as contact point for guidance with reporting returns
5. The Sectoral action plans should be returned by end-September. In relation to “ownership”, Departments will be required to link initiatives with the relevant paragraph of the PSA. It was agreed that initiatives cited within the action plans should be communicated to staff on the ground.
6. The Body approved the appointment of Mr. Pat Harvey to chair of the Health Sectoral Implementation Body and Mr. Dan Murphy to chair of the Local

Government Sectoral Implementation Body and asked that union members forward details of union membership for these sectoral bodies. It was agreed that letters should issue to unions to inform of these appointments.

The appropriate sectoral arrangements in respect of the other sectors was discussed.

7. Regarding the reporting template, a revised draft was circulated to members. It would seek information on initiatives linked to the PSA and would ask for description of benefits, timeframe for implementation & to identify any significant milestones. Furthermore, it was advised that as this reporting tool advanced, savings that would flow from this information should become clearer. While members agreed with this initial approach it was also decided the letter clearly state that quantifiable savings will be required at a later stage.

The establishment of a mechanism to capture, track & supervise savings being returned was discussed. Members also raised the possibility of creating the opportunity for individual unions/public servants to forward cost-saving suggestions.

Members agreed to issue the revised letter (and copy to sectoral chairs).

8. A list of Implementation Body meetings to end-year to be circulated to members along with minutes of today's meeting.

9. The next meeting of the Body will be held on 30 September 2010.

10. The Chair advised that action plans should highlight major sectoral issues and suggested regular updates at future meetings.