

Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014

Implementation Body

Meeting 5 July 2010. Minute

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. As it was the first meeting of the Implementation Body, discussions centred around the role of the Body and of its independent Chair, the challenges associated with driving the implementation of the Agreement, verifying achievements both in terms of improved services and savings and monitoring of same and the key measures and arrangements that need to be put in place to deliver on the early potential in the Agreement and achieve quick wins and credibility for all parties to the agreement.
2. It was agreed that:
 - a. the Body would meet regularly with the next meeting scheduled for 15 July. The Chair indicated his availability to meet as often as necessary;
 - b. a structured work programme for the rest of 2010 would be developed for discussion at the next meeting. This would include any necessary meetings with key stakeholders, including representatives of the LRC and Labour Court;
 - c. discussions by members of the Body during its meetings would remain strictly confidential;
 - d. the Body would issue reports on its meeting which would inform managements and unions that it has begun its work. In the first report, the need for management to adhere and comply with the Croke Park arrangements and engage early in consultations with staff on how proposed changes would impact on them would be highlighted. A very short guide paper would be prepared and circulated to managements and unions in this regard;
 - e. the Body would not get engaged in the detail of implementation in sectors. To that end, establishment of the sectoral arrangements was critical to delivery – their structure would be discussed at the next meeting which will also consider putting in place a robust system to enable the Body to track developments, or otherwise, at sectoral level. The existing structures could be used where appropriate for local discussions. A protocol on the implementation issues that were appropriate for referral to the Body would be developed;
 - f. The Body would need to reach a common understanding on the issues/criteria which will underpin the pay review in the Spring, including the criteria and basis for allocation of savings, relevant baseline, and the manner in which changes that involve no direct savings will be treated. The data to be used will be drawn from the existing Department of Finance databases;

- g. There needs to be very early emphasis on developing redeployment arrangements given the potential savings or cost avoidance involved. Public service management were due to discuss those arrangements later this week and the public service unions should also be consulted on implementation arrangements;
- h. The Implementation Body should preserve an independent identity as far as possible and future meetings will take place in Lansdowne Road. Secretarial and other necessary support will be drawn from the Department of Finance.

3. The next meeting will be at 3pm, 15th July, 2010, in Lansdowne Road.