

22 January 2004

To All Branch Secretaries

**Special Delegate Conference on Decentralisation  
Burlington Hotel, Dublin Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2004**

**Preliminary Notice**

Dear Branch Secretary

The Executive Committee has decided to convene a Special Delegate Conference on Decentralisation on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin commencing at 9.30 am.**

The Special Delegate Conference is being convened following the recent Special Meeting of the Consultative Council at which serious concerns were expressed in relation to many aspects of the proposed decentralisation programme, including questions about the capacity of a decentralised and fragmented civil service to deliver effective services; the potential impact on public administration of high levels of staff surpluses; the absence of any published strategic analysis and of meaningful prior consultations – the combined effect of which will give rise to major industrial relations and management problems for our members across the public service.

The Executive Committee, following consultation with the Standing Orders Committee, are requesting each Branch to convene a Special Meeting of their Branch with a view to submitting motions for the Special Delegate Conference to Association Headquarters by **11 am Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2004.**

The Executive Committee will, in accordance with Rule 6(i)(i) of the Rules and Constitution of the Association issue the formal Notice for the Special Delegate Conference on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2004. The Notice will be accompanied by the Composite Agenda for Conference, which will be drawn up in consultation with the Standing Orders Committee, and the business of conference will be conducted having regard to the Standing Orders for all Delegate Conferences of the Association.

A separate notice is being issued in relation to the timetable for the normal Annual Delegate Conference, which is due to be held in the Burlington Hotel on 15<sup>th</sup> May, and Branches may wish to hold the Special Branch Meetings on decentralisation at the same time as the normal Annual Branch AGMs.

Yours sincerely

Sean O Riordain  
General Secretary