

2 March 2006

Mr John O'Connell
Assistant Secretary
Department of Finance

Principal [Standard Scale] Interdepartmental Panel

Dear John

I refer to previous discussions and communications in relation to promotions due to be made from the Principal (Standard Scale) Interdepartmental Panel.

This whole area is an extremely sensitive one and the Executive Committee is very anxious that the monitoring arrangements provided for in the scheme would ensure that there is no area for doubt about what posts are due to be filled from the panel, whether directly decentralising or, indirectly, in substitution for Dublin based posts.

The Association is, therefore, requesting that, as part of the monitoring arrangements, you would communicate with individual departments and offices (to the extent that your department may not have already done so) with a view to:

- (1) confirming the extend of any liabilities i.e debts due to the PO (Standard Scale) Panel prior to the scheme coming into operation on 1 January 2005; and
- (2) establishing the extent to which promotion posts fall due to the PO (Standard Scale) Panel since the scheme came into operation on 1 January 2005 classified by departments and offices and indicating whether the promotion post is
 - (i) a decentralising post, or
 - (ii) an indirectly decentralising post, i.e. a post being filled with a decentralisation tag in consequence of a Dublin based PO post being filled by a surplus PO from the Dublin CAF.

We also request that, in communicating with departments/offices, you would put in place arrangements that would ensure that we know what promotions have been made and are due in terms of confirming that the sequence of promotions conforms with the requirements of the PO scheme as amended by the decentralisation promotion policy document.

It would be very helpful in this regard if an overall schedule classified by department/office which would give the comprehensive picture of what is involved could be drawn up. We need absolute certainty that any posts that are properly due to the PO (Standard Scale) panel are filled. We also need to be notified on an ongoing basis as soon as further promotions fall to the PO (Standard Scale) Panel.

I would appreciate an early response to this request both for the information of the Executive Committee and for the information of members on the PO (Standard Scale) Panel who are in touch with us in this regard.

Finally, it would be helpful if a further meeting could be held as soon as possible to monitor progress. We also need to discuss how decentralised posts which are rejected by the Panel should be filled and how shortfalls not due to the Panel will be filled on a basis that is fair and equitable.

Yours sincerely

Sean O Riordain
General Secretary

cc. AHCPS Branch Secretaries