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Civil Servants forego over 26% in pay.

The Association of Higher Civil and Public Servants wishes to re-iterate that the present financial crisis was not caused by the Public Service. The Association nevertheless recognises that the country faces a grave financial situation which needs to be addressed urgently.

The Association's General Secretary Dave Thomas stated that ***“A pension levy on public servants by itself will not adequately address the current financial crisis. The tax base has to be broadened and the Government must do it now”***. There is great anger amongst the Association's members regarding the announcement by the Taoiseach of a pension levy on public servants and the non-payment of the Towards 2016 pay increases. Especially since this is being done in isolation from any other measures. ***“The Government's proposal is a one-sided response which is not addressing the financial situation in a fair and equitable manner amongst all of society. As citizens, members of this Association will play their part in addressing our economic difficulties but will not do so in isolation but as part of a social solidarity pact which sees the burden shared amongst all citizens and particularly those who benefited most during the boom years.”***

The major part of our current financial difficulties has been a fall off in tax revenue, particularly that element which came from stamp duty. It is obvious that part of the solution lays in generating additional taxation measures and this needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. The Commission on Taxation needs to issue interim reports that can be acted upon now and not next year.

The Executive Committee of the Association, following its meeting today, has called a meeting of its Consultative Council for next Wednesday the 11th of February at 4pm in the Association's Head Office to formulate a response to the Government announcement.

Mr Thomas added. ***“In addition to the proposed pension levy of between 8% and 9%, members have also been asked to forego increases under Towards 2016 totalling 6% and under the most recent independent pay determination mechanism the Benchmarking Body in 2008 made a further deduction of 12% in respect of their pensions. This represents a total loss in salary of between 26% and 27% and this is patently unfair.”***

For further information please contact Dave Thomas, General Secretary on 087 2220192 or 6686077, email info@ahcps.ie.