

## **AHCPS General Secretary welcome pay talks progress but express disappointment at restoration timeline**

### **AHCPS Executive to meet on Monday to consider proposals**

**For immediate release: June 8, 2017:** While welcoming the proposed restoration of pay to its members under the Public Service Stability Agreement 2018 -2020, the General Secretary of the Association of Higher Civil and Public Servants (AHCPS), Ciaran Rohan, has expressed his disappointment that it will take five and a half years before AHCPS members see their salary levels back to pre-recession levels.

Ciaran Rohan is a member of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and participated in the pay talks, which concluded last night.

Commenting today, he said: "While I recognise the progress made through the pay talks and I welcome the proposed phased restoration of pay to our members, it is somewhat disappointing that our members will be waiting more than five years to see their pay levels restored to pre-recession levels. The financial emergency is long over, but as it stands FEMPI measures will apply to our members well into the next decade and much longer than other public-sector workers."

"Our members deserve quicker restoration than that. Senior civil servants have an increasingly difficult job to do and their experience and value should be recognised with an accelerated timeframe. We responded responsibly to the pay cuts during the recession, but now we see pay levels in the private sector soar beyond what is available in the public sector. Our recommendation to Government has been clear all along; if you want to attract and retain experienced and talented people in the public sector, you have to bring remuneration levels on a par with what's available in the private sector," he said.

The Executive of the AHCPS will meet on Monday to consider the proposals in detail. After that point, its members will vote on whether to accept or refuse the Public Service Stability Agreement 2018 – 2020.

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