

## **Government must publish timeline for reversal of FEMPI cuts – AHCS**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2016:** The Association of Higher Civil and Public Servants (AHCS) is calling on the Government to publish a clear and accelerated timeline for the full reversal of the public sector pay cuts imposed under the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (FEMPI) Acts 2009 – 2013.

Following a meeting of the Association's Executive Committee, the AHCS has responded to the statement by Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe T.D, in which he confirmed that the FEMPI measures will continue into 2016, by saying that public sector workers deserve clarity over Government intentions to fully reinstate their pay to prerecession levels.

General Secretary Ciaran Rohan said; "While we welcome the partial unwinding of the pay and pension reductions confirmed under the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2015, we are calling on Government to publish a detailed, and accelerated timeline for the repeal of the financial emergency measures without delay. We recognise and respect the need for Government to appropriately balance the restoration of public sector pay with the need to improve public services. However, public servants have been disproportionately hit by FEMPI cuts and at the very least they now deserve clarity from Government about when they can expect to have their pay fully restored."

Commenting on the Public Service Pay Commission which is committed to in the Programme for Partnership Government, Mr Rohan said the Commission needs to be a robust, inclusive and independent process that will ensure that public sector pay is properly equated with equivalent private sector roles. "Our members have suffered cuts to their salaries of up to 23% and average net pay levels are the same as they were over 13 years ago. For instance, our research shows that the net pay of Assistant Principal Officers is 20% less than their private sector equivalent, and for a Principal Officer that rises to 30%. We are now demanding fairness for our members and this should be informed in no small part by the work of an independent Public Service Pay Commission. This is critical if we are to attract and retain the best people to the public service."

Severing the link between public sector pay and politicians also remains a priority for the Association; "Politicians should not have any role in determining civil service pay. Not only because it is linked to their own salary levels but, because the fact that it is such a politically charged subject means that the terms and conditions of our members are constantly at the mercy of the political mood and the makeup of the Government. This lack of predictability and fairness is unfair to our members and damaging for the civil service," concluded Mr Rohan.

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