



January Newsletter 2022

Building Momentum – Public Sector Agreement 2021 -2022

Agreement has been reached between the AHCPS and DPER for the payment of 1% under Sectoral Bargaining Fund of the Building Momentum Agreement. The increase will take affect from 1st February 2022. A general round increase of 1% will apply on 1st October 2022. Pensions will increase in line with both increases.

Regrettably, it was not possible to address the pay anomaly that impacts some members at AP equivalent grade in the Office of Government Procurement during these negotiations. However, the Association has reached an agreement with DPER that we will pursue this long-standing anomaly in the forthcoming Pay Talks that are due to commence later this Summer.

Return to Standardised Working Week

The AHCPS also welcomes the Report from the Independent Body Examining Additional Working Hours that has recommended a return to a standardised working week of 35 hours for AHCPS members across the civil and public service. This Report is now being considered by the Government.

NEW AHCPS Members: The First 3 Months are Free.

A free induction period of 3-months will now apply for all new members of the AHCPS. This means subs will not be deducted until 3-months after the date of the Executive approving an application. You will find further reference to this in the 'Guidance Note Services to Members' recently approved by the Executive that can be accessed on www.ahcps.ie.

During Covid it has been challenging to contact new colleagues so please bring this newsletter to the attention of any new AP's or PO's who may have joined your area in the last 18 months so they may avail of this fantastic offer.

Please also let them know that they can now join online by following this link:
<https://www.ahcps.ie/join-the-ahcps/>.

AHCPS Life Cover: 6 months free life cover to New Applicants from February 1st. 2202



The AHCPS Life Cover costs 0.48% of gross salary, is tax deductible, and where there is a death in service provides cover of double your salary.

Cornmarket are now offering 6 months free life cover to new applicants. This offer will apply to new policies taken out from the 1st of February 2022.

This offer is not matched in the private sector where rates are usually much higher.

Remember, if you were previously a member of a FORSA insurance scheme (Life or Income Protection) you must transfer to an AHCPS scheme, or you may not be covered should it be necessary to make a claim. For more information, please visit:
<https://www.ahcps.ie/benefits-of-membership/>.

Circular 27/2021 – Secondment Policy for the Civil Service

A Secondment is a temporary arrangement that facilitates the release of staff members for a specified period in a way that does not affect their employment status with the parent Department/Office. Secondments in general are for a period between six months and in certain circumstances can be for five years.

A new Secondment Policy for the Civil Service is now being implemented. This scheme will be used to support the Civil Service Mobility Scheme that is a permanent move to another Department/Office. In very exceptional circumstances secondment may be used for the backfilling of vacant positions arising from staff members who are released for secondments/career breaks and also vacancies in small offices or regional locations.

The Policy, Guidance and FAQs for Civil Service Organisations may be viewed at:

<https://hr.per.gov.ie/en/corporate-pages/career/mobility/secondment/#article-section-policy-guidance-and-faqs-for-civil-service-organisations>.

AHCPS Member Seminar – 17th February

The Association intends to run an online seminar for members on the afternoon of 17th February.

The topic of the event will be:

‘Managing Mental Well-being – Post-Pandemic’

The Seminar will be open to all AHCPS members.

Further details and registration arrangements will be provided shortly.

