

An Post pensioners secure increases after Ministerial approval

ANDY PRENDERGAST

Pension increases to 7,000 former An Post employees will commence at the end of September, following confirmation that both the Minister of Public Expenditure and Minister for Communications have given their consent.

Increases to pensions at An Post require dual Ministerial consent – a process that has been criticised as causing undue delays for An Post pensioners. This issue was raised last year and had become a pressing concern for pensioners and the Communications Workers' Union (CWU) last year and again this year (see [IRN 31/2023](#)).

On Monday of this week, however, An Post confirmed to the CWU that Ministerial consent had been provided formally, allowing the pension increases to take effect. The increases, as per two collective agreements, are as follows:

Transformation Agreement

- 5% effective from 1 January 2022
- 1% effective from 1 July 2023

Pay Agreement

- 2% effective from 1 January 2023.

An Post said it will commence payment of these increases in sequence, commencing with the first payment of 5% effective from 1 January 2022. This will be paid at the end of September 2023 together with the arrears. The next payment will be the 2% due from 1 January 2023 and the final payment will be 1% from 1 July 2023.

Commenting, CWU General Secretary, Seán McDonagh, said: "Our retired colleagues have endured an unnecessary delay in receiving the payments due to them and secured by their Union. However, we welcome the final Ministerial consents and the fact that the Company has confirmed they will start processing these pension increases with the first payment of 5% and accompanying arrears to be paid at the end of September.

"The process which the Government has in place is unwieldy and delays payments due to An Post pensioners. This has caused them considerable financial hardships. Unfortunately the CWU, our worker directors, ICTU, other unions and public representatives were forced to intervene directly to end this delay which should not have happened in the first place.

The CWU will continue to press for an accelerated process and timeframe for future payments under future agreements.”