

# An Post – worker directors push for increases for An Post pensioners

## ANDY PRENDERGAST

**The CWU has launched a campaign to expedite the payment of pension increases to 7,000 former An Post employees, criticising the several hurdles the payment has to go through before being released.**

For a second year running, the process of applying increases to An Post pensioners – on the back of a Labour Court recommendation – has been protracted, partly due to the dual minister process that is currently in play.

Both the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform and the Minister for Communications have to sign off on the pension increases

It is understood An Post are eager to apply the increases to former employees, as are the union, but the multi-layered process, which involves the New Economy and Recovery Authority (NewERA), has meant that for a second year running, increases due to 7,000 pensioners in January have not been applied until much later in the calendar year (*see IRN 28/2023 for background*).

Worker directors at An Post will now ask the Board to approve the implementation of the increases as per the Labour Court Recommendation 22708, at the next board meeting, scheduled for 13 September, in the absence of Ministerial approval.

The agreed increases are part of collective agreements between An Post and the Group of Unions, and which both the Dept. of Public Expenditure and the Dept of Communications are also signatories to. The agreed increases, to apply retrospectively, are as follows:

- 5% due from the 1st January 2022
- 2% due from the 1st January 2023
- 1% due from the 1st July 2023.

CWU General Secretary, Seán McDonagh said: “The protracted and cumbersome process to approve pension increases, and which is causing real hardship to An Post pensioners, has now advanced to Minister Paschal Donohoe and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. Minister Donohoe must bring an end to the unnecessary delays being endured by An Post pensioners.

Mr. McDonagh said it is not tenable that the delays in paying pensioners at An Post can continue: "Failure on either the Minister's part, or the Board of An Post, to adhere to agreements with workers and their Unions leaves the CWU with no option but to review our continuing cooperation with the Company and its transformation programme which is impacting all aspects of An Post operations."