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An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí Sheachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform

Ref: S1588 PAC33

76 February 2024

Ms. Catherine Smith Committee Secretariat Committee of Public Accounts Leinster House Dublin 2

By email: PAC@oireachtas.ie

Dear Catherine.

I refer to your letter dated 16 February 2024 in relation to correspondence received by the Committee of Public Accounts from Ms. Mary Walsh.

In that correspondence, Ms. Walsh has made enquiries about the rate of pension payable to her, and states that pension increases awarded on 1 October 2023 under the Building Momentum Agreement have been "withdrawn".

In the first instance, I must advise that this department does not have access to the payroll records of civil and public servants and therefore we cannot advise on the pension payment details of any individual case. I understand that the National Shared Services Office (NSSO) acts as paymaster on behalf of the Education and Training Boards (ETB). The NSSO would therefore be best placed to advise on any queries relating to the rate of pension payable to this individual, the implementation of pension increases for ETB pensioners, and access to payslips.

Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí Office of the Secretary General



I can confirm that there is no policy which removes increases already awarded to any Public Service pension, including those increases awarded in accordance with the Building Momentum Agreement 2021-2023. While the Building Momentum Agreement expired on 31 December 2023, any pension increases awarded in accordance with that agreement remain in place.

Additionally, under the recently negotiated Public Service Agreement 2024-2026, it has been agreed that the current method of pension increases ('pay parity') will continue to apply for the term of that Agreement, subject to its ratification.

Finally, I would note that pension payment rates may change periodically owing to increases in the gross public service pension value, changes to an individual's tax circumstances, PRSI (if applicable) etc. The NSSO would be best placed to investigate and confirm the reason for the change in the rate of pension payments and may be contacted at payrollcontact@nsso.gov.ie. Any change to an amount of pension payable is not due to a removal of a previously awarded increase under the current public service pension increase policy.

Yours sincerely,

David Moloney

Secretary General