



STRONGER TOGETHER

CONGRESS

Irish Congress of Trade Unions

17 June 2016

Dear Minister,

The Annual General Meeting of the ICTU Public Services Committee directed that I should write to you in advance of the up-coming ,required, annual renewal of FEMPI legislation.

The AGM asked that I express in the strongest possible terms our continued objection to this draconian legislation, to call for the immediate repeal of the legislation and for the Government as an employer to show leadership in addressing the related, ongoing problem of low pay in the Public Service.

As you know, FEMPI legislation has resulted in up to three cuts in the pay of Public Servants, enforced by legislation that is grounded in an economic and fiscal 'emergency'. This legislation is an extraordinary series of attacks, not just on the pay and conditions of Government employees but also on their rights as citizens of our nation to bargain freely with their employer. It is the type of legislative infringement on such basic rights that could only be justified in a democratic state in times of emergency.

Thankfully, the emergency has now passed and the basis for such blatant interference with rights is no longer apparent.

The Government has an opportunity in the annual review to address this continued draconian legislation and to return the right to Public Servants to be treated, in law, in their relationship with their employer in the same fashion as the remainder of our citizens.

Obviously, the repeal of this draconian legislation will not resolve all issues between Public Servants and their employer and would need to be followed up with discussion about issues such as low pay, additional working hours and other disimprovements in conditions that have occurred in recent years.

However, it would represent a first step, and a vitally important step, in restoring normality into the relationship between Government and its employees.

We would very much welcome a positive response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,


Tom Geraghty
Secretary
Public Services Committee

Mr. Paschal Donohue, T.D.
Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform
Merrion Street
Dublin 2

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