



Oifig an tAire ar a bhfuil freagracht maidir le Cosaint
Office of the Minister with Responsibility for Defence

31 May 2017

Mr. Colm Murphy
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Performance and Change Management
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 2.



Your reference: M175/0517

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I refer to your correspondence in relation to a motion agreed at a May Special Meeting of South Dublin County Council relating to increasing wages for recruits and privates members of the Permanent Defence Force.

In relation to wage restoration it should be noted that rates of remuneration and conditions of employment in the Irish Defence Force have traditionally been set by reference to relative levels of pay across the various parts of the Irish public sector. The Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts of 2009-2013 and the Public Service Stability Agreement 2013-2018 (the Lansdowne Road Agreement) define current pay policy for Public Servants and members of the Permanent Defence Forces.

I believe that measures contained in the Lansdowne Road Agreement (LRA), which PDFORRA have recently signed up to, and the provisions introduced in Budget 2016 and 2017 will be of benefit generally to members of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF).

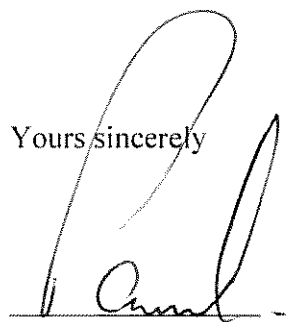
The LRA proposes to increase salaries during 2016 and 2017. These benefits come in the form of increases in gross pay in 2016 for those earning up to €31,000 and in 2017 for all those earning up to €65,000. In addition the Government has introduced legislation which has commenced the process to reduce the pay reduction applied under the Financial Emergency Measures in Public

Interest (FEMPI) Act 2013. As you may be aware PDFORRA, the representative association for enlisted personnel of the Permanent Defence Force, have recently accepted the terms of the Lansdowne Road Agreement and the above pay provisions will now also apply to their members. Currently my officials are engaged in arranging the payment of these pay increases.

In relation to the Pensions Related Deduction (PRD), which is commonly referred to as the 'Pension Levy', the exemption threshold for payment of the 'Pension Levy' will increase substantially during the course of the agreement from €15,000 to €28,750 which means that annual income subject to the levy below €28,750 will no longer be liable to the deduction.

I wish to advise that the Public Service Pay Commission, announced by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, has been tasked with providing analysis and advice on public sector remuneration, including the Defence Forces, in the context of the FEMPI Acts 2009 – 2015. PDFORRA have made a submission to the Commission setting out their position. The Government has initiated negotiations on a successor to the Lansdowne Road Agreement with the relevant parties, including the Defence Force Representative Associations ahead of Budget 2018 considerations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Kehoe', written over a horizontal line.

PAUL KEHOE, T.D.

MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENCE