



Case Number: REPS-2021-25593

Ref: M07/1020

07/05/2021

Dear Ms Reilly

Minister Heather Humphreys T.D., has asked me to respond to your correspondence in relation to the 2008 Labour Court recommendation relating to the provision of a pension scheme for Community Employment (CE) supervisors.

CE is an active labour market programme designed to provide eligible long-term unemployed people and others with an opportunity to engage in useful work within their communities on a temporary, fixed term basis.

The programme is delivered through independent CE sponsoring authorities who are the legal employers of their CE supervisors, CE assistant supervisors and CE participants. CE sponsoring authorities receive state funding to cover the cost of remuneration, training and material costs from the Department.

As you are aware, CE supervisors and assistant supervisors have been seeking for several years, through their union representatives, the allocation of Exchequer funding to implement a 2008 Labour Court recommendation relating to the provision of a pension scheme for CE supervisors who are employed by CE schemes.

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform had to have regard to any potential Exchequer exposure associated with dealing with the specific issue relating solely to CE supervisors arising from the Labour Court recommendation. Any proposal to resolve this specific issue, can and will only apply to CE supervisors and CE assistant supervisors.

It has been within this context that officials from this Department and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform held discussions on proposals to progress and resolve this issue over the past number of months, while having regard to the wider budgetary framework. Officials from this Department also held discussions with unions representing CE supervisors and assistant supervisors during the same period.

The Department is pleased to report there has been a successful outcome to the discussions between both Departments. On Friday 16th April, the Minister for Public



Expenditure and Reform, Minister McGrath and Minister Humphreys reached agreement in principle on proposals to resolve this issue.

These proposals have been put to the unions representing CE supervisors and assistant supervisors and the Department is optimistic that this will bring the matter to a speedy resolution.

Yours sincerely

Finola Dowd
Executive Officer

*The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015
(details available on www.lobbying.ie)*