

M7/O226

Dear Ms. Shannon,

The Minister for Education and Youth, Ms. Hildegarde Naughton TD, has asked me to thank you for your recent correspondence in relation to school secretaries and to respond on her behalf.

School secretaries and caretakers are at the heart of the school and are the key interface between students, parents, school leaders and other staff. Without them, our schools would be unsustainable. In supporting these vital school staff members, we also support the school community as a whole.

Minister Naughton 's Department has been engaging with Fórsa and the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation over the past number of months under the auspices of the Workplace Relations Commission in relation to a number of claims including a claim for a comparable pension entitlement.

The matter was referred to the Labour Court and a hearing took place on 12th January 2026. Both parties await the recommendation of the Court. The parties remain in process, and the Department of Education and Youth remains committed and ready to engage with Fórsa to reach a resolution on this important matter.

As with any industrial relations process, where engagement is sensitive and complex, the matters under discussion are confidential until this process concludes.

Yours sincerely,

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Eimear Kavanagh

Private Secretary