

Post is obliged to make three separate applications. Apart from the utter frustration of pensioners, this is placing unnecessary administrative costs on the schemes.

In both examples above, there is no delay or fault attributable to either company. Neither should there be, as the increases are not funded by the companies and are paid from the scheme funds both of which are healthy because of prudent management by trustees and sacrifices of members.


NewERA's brief is to provide financial and commercial advice to Government Ministers and Departments. In circumstances where increases already comply with collective agreements (approved at the time by both Departments) have company, pension trustees and actuarial approval, there is no justifiable reason for their prolonged intervention and unnecessary delay. At best it should be an oversight procedure which would allow a fast-track Ministerial approval be put in place.

From a recent discussion I had with Kevin Callinan, ICTU President, I understand that this experience of slow ministerial sign-off, is shared by other unions in the semi-state sector. We agreed it would be beneficial to have a coordinated approach by Congress in respect of the way government deals with pension increases in the semi-state sector. Perhaps we should review with other unions to ascertain their views and experiences.

I would appreciate your assistance and request ICTU make representations to government, seeking Ministers, and the relevant Departments, streamline the approval process for the benefit of our pensioner members.

Our pensioners have given very loyal service to the company and state and they cannot understand the delay in payment of their entitlements, particularly given the current cost of living crisis.

Yours sincerely,



Seán McDonagh
General Secretary