

# **BUILDING MOMENTUM NATIONAL**

## **PAY AGREEMENT: LATEST UPDATE**

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier today the office of the ICTU Public Services Committee issued a statement regarding the invoking of the Building Momentum review clause, of which we are a party to.

### **Here is that statement in full:**

*“As you are aware, the PSC invoked the Building Momentum review clause on 11<sup>th</sup> March, when inflation was 5.6%. We did this with the objective of significantly improving the pay element of the agreement, taking account of higher-than-expected inflation in both 2021 and 2022.*

*The Government eventually responded in May, when inflation had reached 7%. Subsequent talks in the Workplace Relations Commission ended without agreement on 17<sup>th</sup> June, by which time inflation had hit 7.8%.*

*Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) officials subsequently told the WRC that the Government needed more time to reflect on its position and four weeks later – with inflation at 9.1% - they are still reflecting. Meanwhile, the Dáil has gone into recess and will not resume until 14<sup>th</sup> September, less than two weeks before the Budget.*

*The Government administration is now effectively winding down until mid-September, leaving low and middle-income public servants with the prospect of another two months of uncertainty. In our view, the Government’s attitude towards its staff is bordering on contempt.*

*Given its continued foot-dragging, it seems clear that the Government does not intend to conclude the review of Building Momentum.*

*On this basis, we have told the WRC that we are no longer in a position to continue discussions on an extension of Building Momentum, to cover pay in 2023, until the review of Building Momentum is satisfactorily concluded. If there is no extension in place before the current agreement expires at the end of December, we will have to submit pay claims for next year.*

*We are also recommending a coordinated union campaign, supported by industrial action ballots, to achieve a credible pay offer for 2021-2022 for public servants who, in common with workers across*

*the economy, are bearing the full brunt of large and sustained increases in the cost of home heating, fuel, food, housing, childcare and many other essentials. We recommend that unions begin practical arrangements for balloting, to begin next month, pending a meeting of the Public Services Committee to coordinate the campaign.*

*You will recall that the pay talks ended without agreement in mid-June after the Government offered an additional increase of just 2.5% for the 2021-2022 period of the current agreement. This is clearly inadequate when inflation now seems likely to be over 10% in that period.”*

This development will be brought forward to CEC level for consideration and direction and we will post an update here as soon as there is any further progress.

Best Regards,

Philip McAnenly,  
Interim General Secretary, GRA