



Statement by GRA President Frank Thornton

Re: Maximum Extraction Rate increase from 10% to 20% for the Purposes of Annual Leave

02.02.2022

“While we welcome yesterday’s announcement to partially restore the extraction rate to 20%, we are perplexed as to why abstraction rates could not have been fully restored to 25%. This decision to restore only partially is lacking clarity and detailed rationale.

The members we represent have stood firm in their commitment and dedication to their duty during this pandemic. From rostering changes to reductions in abstraction rates, like the decision last November to reduce abstraction rates again to 10%.

We strongly felt that this decision denied our members of their ability to avail a basic employment right without consultation or engagement with the association and showed contempt for the individual members we represent. There is an enormous bottle neck of annual leave for members yet to avail of which has not been addressed by Garda Management and a solution to this glaring issue must be arrived at as a matter of urgency. Our members are exhausted and the restrictions on availing of annual leave are further impacting on our members health and safety.

Now that these Covid numbers and needs have vastly reduced we are seeking urgent discussions to correct this rate to the level of 25% as previously agreed.”