



IMPACT

Why we're on strike

We'll be back at work tomorrow, providing all the vital services that you value and rely on every day. We're really sorry for any inconvenience caused today. But the Government has forced us into a strike nobody wants because they won't negotiate a fair alternative to their plan for a second huge pay cut in less than a year.

Last March, every single public servant suffered a pay cut of around 7% - on top of all the new levies and taxes that hit us all. Now the Government seems dead set on doing the same thing again, hitting family incomes, public services, and your local economy.

IMPACT and other unions are up for a fair and workable alternative. We've said:

- The Government can make the substantial savings it requires without cutting pay rates again.
- This is being done, among other things, by its policy of reducing the numbers of public servants. But this also requires massive changes in the way services are run to ensure the level and quality of public services are maintained.
- Public servants are citizens too – we know these are tough times and we're willing to work harder and work differently to protect services as budgets fall.
- And we've already saved the taxpayer €1,300,000,000 (£1.3 billion) in 2009 through the 'pension levy', a ban on recruitment, and a pay freeze. Next year, these measures will contribute another €2,400,000,000 (£2.4 billion) – even before any new savings.

The bad news for service users and staff is that the Government prefers the lazy option of job cuts and another pay cut - without any reform to protect your public services.

We believe in the services we provide to you, and we know you value them too. We don't want to be on strike. But we hope you'll understand that we've been forced into this by a Government that won't listen to a fair and workable alternative.

Find out more about our alternative approach at
www.7STEPStoTRANSFORM.ie

Straight Facts

- IMPACT and other unions have offered a fair and workable alternative to more pay cuts.
- Most public servants are on low or modest incomes. Two-thirds are paid below €50,000 a year and more than four out of ten are paid less than €40,000 a year.
- Every public servant has already suffered a pay cut – averaging 7% this year – on top of the new taxes and charges that have hit us all.
- Between 5,000 and 6,000 public service jobs have been lost in the last year – and thousands more temporary staff have been shown the door. Thousands more jobs are under threat.
- Pay cuts hurt jobs and the local economy as lower incomes mean less spending in local shops and businesses.
- Public servants pay an average 6.5% of their pay towards their pensions – on top of PRSI contributions and the so-called ‘pension levy’. But the majority of civil servants receive pensions of less than €20,000 a year.
- The economic crisis was not caused by public spending or public servants. Before the top bankers and speculators collapsed the economy, international studies said Irish public services were good quality and value-for-money compared to other countries.

We’re doing our bit for economic recovery – and we’re prepared to do more. But we can’t accept an approach where the Government comes back again and again to cut family incomes. We hope you’ll support us.

www.impact.ie

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