

Afternoon

I would like to explain how the lack of bargaining and the delays have affected me and my family. We are three years into “bargaining” and still NO result! The Department has brought nothing new to the table and is not changing its stance on moving conditions from the agreement into policy where it can be changed at any time.

As a single parent with a mortgage this “bargaining” has dragged on for too long, the cost of living is going up and my pay is not! It’s very hard to explain to a teenager why we can’t afford things. I note the Government of the day and past get massive pay percentage increases yet we can’t get a fair pay rise and keep our conditions in an agreement and NOT policy. The Department started “bargaining” by taking away employee conditions and only after a resonant NO vote from staff did the Department concede and return the conditions we already had, wouldn’t you start bargaining with what is already in there not taking away from the staff! Why is the Department not listening to its employees?

Today we received an update on a draft agreement. And again small concessions made (giving back what we already had) however the major issues still have not been addressed from the last one, which the Departments staff voted down (85%). That’s two from two that have been rejected, what is the Department NOT getting?

I and my family are tired of having to fight for a fair deal for fair days’ work. The morale in the office is horrendous, not knowing if and when we will get a fair pay rise, keep our conditions in an agreement not policy and if the Department will be transparent in its bargaining. As a Union Delegate I have staff regularly asking WHY! WHY are we not getting a fair pay offer? WHY does the Department want out conditions in policy? WHY has it taken 3 years and still nothing to offer and no movement?

Personally, I’m tired three years and still nothing! What is it going to take to get a fair deal and maintain our conditions in an agreement not policy?

Cheryl Martin