



Northern Ireland  
Assembly  
**COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL**

Mr Sammy Wilson MP MLA  
Minister of Finance and Personnel  
Craigantlet Buildings  
Stoney Road  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SX

14 September 2011

Dear Sammy

**NICS Equal Pay Settlement**

At its meeting on 7 September, the Committee for Finance and Personnel took evidence from NIPSA representatives on concerns regarding the various categories of employees omitted from the terms of the NICS equal pay settlement, including PSNI civilian staff, NIO secondees and NICS retirees. These issues were also discussed with Departmental officials during their subsequent evidence session.

The Committee would wish the Department to further examine the circumstances of civil servants who were seconded or directed to transfer to another government department or public body, who as a result have now been omitted from the terms of the equal pay settlement. The Committee also requests clarification with regard to the pensions for these civil servants, and whether the same pension provider and pension arrangements apply across the range of departments and organisations to which individuals were seconded or transferred.

The Committee is particularly concerned that the number of employees affected in these categories has not been properly quantified. In respect of retirees, for example, in his evidence to the Committee on 22 June, Mr Baker advised that 8,760 staff had left the AA, AO and EOII grades. This figure has however been challenged on a number of grounds, both in the oral evidence provided by NIPSA<sup>1</sup>, and also in the attached correspondence from Ms D Leahy and Mr I Baxter. Members consider that

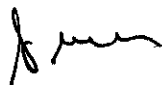
---

<sup>1</sup>See [http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/record/committees2011/FinancePersonnel/110907\\_NICSEqualPaySettlement.htm](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/record/committees2011/FinancePersonnel/110907_NICSEqualPaySettlement.htm)

robust data is essential to ensure that all parties are fully informed with regard to the numbers involved, and also in terms of the estimated costs of extending the equal pay settlement to any or all of these categories of staff. The Committee therefore requests that detailed work is undertaken in this regard as a priority, in consultation with other departments and public bodies as appropriate.

A copy of the NIPSA briefing paper is attached for information. I would appreciate a response by 28 September 2011.

Yours sincerely



 **Conor Murphy MP MLA**  
Chairperson

**Conchúr MacMhurchaidh FP CTR**  
Cathaoirleach