



C.L. 27/97

**TO BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT,
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEES AND
PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS**

**REDUCTION TO 55 IN EARLY RETIREMENT SUPERANNUATION
ARRANGEMENTS FOR POST-PRIMARY TEACHERS**

The Revised Proposals for Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Teachers under Clause 2(iii) of Annex 1 of the Programme for Competitiveness and Work 1996 contained a provision in relation to the reduction to 55 in early retirement superannuation arrangements for post-primary teachers.

The Minister for Education now wishes to advise Vocational Education Committees of the revised superannuation arrangements for post-primary teachers.

1. PROPOSALS FOR EQUALISATION OF TEACHERS' PENSION PROVISIONS:

- 1.1 A pension shall be payable to post-primary teachers on the common basic scale who retire having attained the age of fifty five and have not less than thirty five years' pensionable service.
- 1.2 The pensionable service of a teacher on the common basic scale who retires with entitlement to disability pension or who dies in pensionable service on or after 31st July, 1996 to be the aggregate of service pensionable under existing regulations and added service calculated on the following basis:-
- (a) teachers with not less than 5 and not more than 10 years' pensionable service to be credited with an equivalent amount of added service, subject to such credited service not exceeding the additional pensionable service which would have accrued if the teacher had continued in service up to the date on which s/he would cease, by reason of his/her age, to be eligible to give pensionable service;
 - (b) teachers with more than 10 and not more than 20 years' pensionable service to be credited with the more favourable of
 - (i) a period of added service equal to the difference between pensionable service and 20 years, subject to such added period not exceeding the additional pensionable service which would have accrued had the teacher continued in service up to the date on which s/he would cease by reason of his/her age to be eligible to give pensionable service;

- (ii) 6 years and 243 days (i.e. two-thirds of a year) subject to such added service not exceeding the additional pensionable service which would have accrued had the teacher continued in service up to age 60.
- (c) teachers with more than 20 years' pensionable service to be credited with six and two-third years of added service subject to such added service not exceeding the additional pensionable service which would have accrued had the teacher continued in service up to age 60.

2. EFFECTIVE DATE:

- 2.1 The effective date for these proposals is the 31 July, 1996.

3. CREDIT TOWARDS QUALIFYING PERIOD OF 35 YEARS:

- 3.1 Where the pre-service training period for qualification as a teacher is 4 years or more, 2 years will be reckoned for the purposes of achieving the 35 year threshold for retirement.
- 3.2 Where the pre-service training period for qualification as a teacher is 3 years or more, 1 year will be reckoned for the purposes of achieving the 35 year threshold for retirement.
- 3.3 Only pre-service training for the purpose of obtaining the minimum qualifications necessary for teaching will be reckonable for the purpose of achieving the 35 year threshold for retirement.

4. TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR VOCATIONAL TEACHERS' PENSIONS:

- 4.1 In order that the superannuation proposals outlined in this and subsequent Circulars will apply to second level vocational teachers, responsibility for their superannuation arrangements will be transferred from the Minister for the Environment to the Minister for Education.

5. COPIES OF CIRCULARS:

- 5.1 You are requested to provide a copy of this Circular to the parents' and teachers' representatives on Boards of Management.

6. APPLICATIONS TO RETIRE:

- 6.1 The application procedures that apply in relation to voluntary retirement shall apply to teachers who propose to retire having attained the age of fifty five and have not less than thirty five years' pensionable service.
- 6.2 Teachers attention is drawn to Circular 26/97 on arrangements for the purchase, for superannuation purposes, of certain teaching service.

Don Thornhill,
Runaí.
June 1997.