



RTE RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

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c/o 41 Wesley Heights D16 AV81

Wednesday 2nd June 2021

Ms. Patricia Murphy
Assistant Secretary General - Media policy
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Dear Patricia,

I am writing to you in regard to the application for a proposed increase on Pensions-in-Payment - RTÉ Superannuation Scheme (RTÉSA).

This application was made by RTE on the 7th December 2020. That is 177 days ago. The purpose of this letter is to ask for an approximate estimate of how long this decision will take.

We do not receive a State Pension. We have been informed by the Chair of the Trustees that;

"it is important to confirm that RTÉ has in fact required the Trustees to ensure that the pensions-in-payment of all pensioners have been fully escalated for all years in accordance with the terms of all National Pay Agreements and Awards." In the 60 year history of the scheme pay increases to public servants have always been applied to RTE pensioners.

The most recent Actuarial Report for 2020 states:


"on the basis of these results I draw the following conclusions: The RTESA's resources exceed the value of core entitlements by €265 m. and the excess assets exceed the reserve for all future pension indexation by €56m. million. On the basis of these outcomes I consider that the RTESA's resources are adequate to provide for both core benefits and pension indexation on an ongoing basis."

The previous application for 1% took over 2 years to be refused. The last pension increase we received dates back to a time when Bertie Ahern was Taoiseach and George W. Bush was President of the USA. This shameful performance reflects poorly on all concerned and shows a remarkable, patrician indifference towards a singularly vulnerable group of citizens.

I have been advised that such tardy decision-making amounts to maladministration. A case for the Ombudsman or the European Ombudsman. I am copying this correspondence to the Chairpersons of the relevant Oireachtas Committees.

We cannot afford another 2 years wait. Our pensions are our deferred wages. So, may I ask you to give us your best estimate for a decision date?

Sincerely!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony O'Connor

Chair