

Implementation of the Protection of Employees Legislation

14 November 2008

Dear Staff Member,

Further to previous correspondence I am taking this opportunity to update you on progress. The University has acknowledged its obligations under the Protection of Employees Legislation and is committed to implementing its provisions.

I confirm that all eligible staff members were enrolled in the Model Scheme on July 1 2008. Phase 2 & 3 (Information & Arrears Phase) has commenced. Your continued patience is much appreciated and I assure you that we are working to ensure completion in as short a period as possible.

We advised in our letter on 8 April 2008 the following: *“The difficulty for the University is that the Joint Pension Scheme is a “funded” Scheme with no State Guarantee (i.e. pensions are payable from the fund accumulated from employer and employees contributions) and neither funding nor State Guarantee has been provided to date for fixed term workers. Because of these difficulties the University closed the JPS to membership from July, 2003 while awaiting a Resolution. Although a Resolution has been negotiated at sector level (i.e. the State will take over both pension liabilities and funds) no confirmation of same has yet been made available.”*

We have recently been notified that it is intended that the primary legislation to enable the state to take over both pension liabilities and funds is to be enacted before the end of the year. Once legislation is in place we will review current arrangements and make appropriate adjustments if necessary.

We will keep you up to date on progress.

Kind regards,

Triona Lydon
Pensions & Investments Officer