

## Mary Fitzpatrick

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**From:** Michael McGrath  
**Sent:** Friday 2 October 2020 17:50  
**To:** Fianna Fáil TDs; Fianna Fáil Senators  
**Cc:** mmcgrath@per.gov.ie  
**Subject:** Community Employment Scheme Supervisors / Assistant Supervisors

Colleagues,

Further to our meeting at the Convention Centre on Wednesday evening, I agreed to send you a note on the above.

Community Employment Schemes make an enormous contribution to communities throughout the country. This is, of course, made possible only through the leadership and dedication of the Scheme Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors.

As you are well aware, the Labour Court made a recommendation back in 2008 that *'an agreed pension scheme should be introduced for Community Employment Scheme Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors. The scheme should be adequately funded by FÁS as the recognised funding agency.'*

In recent years, the position of successive Governments has been that the State is not the employer and as a consequence it would not be possible for the State to provide such funding for a pension scheme. On coming into office, I received similar advice and was advised that an initiative to address the grievances of Community Employment Scheme Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors could lead to further claims from the wider community and social care sector with very large sums being quoted as a potential cost to the exchequer.

For a number of years now, our party has been advocating for a resolution to this issue. Upon taking my position as Minister, I made it clear to my officials that I wanted this issue looked at afresh to fully assess if there was a pathway to a resolution. With that in mind, back in July I met with FÓRSA and SIPTU along with officials from my Department and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection to see if such a pathway could be found.

At that meeting it was agreed that further engagement would take place between the officials in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the unions representing Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors in order to examine, with the support of officials from my Department, if progress could be made.

I would very much like to reach an acceptable resolution to this issue.

I await the outcome of this ongoing engagement and I will endeavour to keep you all updated over the period ahead.

Once proposals are brought forward to myself, I will make an early decision.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Michael McGrath T.D.



**Cork South Central**



## **Michael McGrath T.D.**

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*chta um Shaoráil Faisnéise*