



Forestry Commission

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Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS)

Further to my letter dated the 24th of May, I can now confirm the position with regards the Civil Service Compensation Scheme and I thought it would be helpful to remind you of what has been happening.

The former administration made changes to the CSCS – which sets the terms for redundancy and voluntary exits – intended to save up to £500m over a 3-year period. The PCS Union applied for judicial review of these changes, which had taken effect from 1 April 2010 and their application was successful.

The issue was returned to Court for further clarification on a number of issues and the judge has now provided a further judgement.

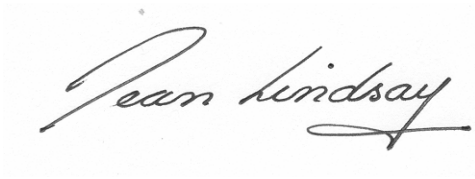
The High Court has upheld the PCS Union's application and the majority of the amendments have been quashed. The Court has clarified the circumstances in which union consent is required for amendments to the Scheme.

This means that the current CSCS terms continue as they were before they were changed in April.

The Government is still considering the terms of the judgement and no decision has been made as to whether they will appeal. However, an important point to note is that it is unlikely the old terms will continue unchanged for any length of time – this does not however, affect staff where terms have already been agreed. The coalition programme states “we will reform the Civil Service Compensation Scheme to bring it into line with practice in the private sector”, and we expect that the Government will wish to pursue this policy intention as soon as possible and reopen negotiations with the Trade Unions. However, the Government will announce its next steps after it has considered the terms of the judgement.



In the meantime the old terms will apply to any compulsory or voluntary exit until such time as new rules are brought in.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Lindsay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Jean Lindsay