

Feedback: Consultative Forum -19 May 2021

Annual salary increment: 2021/22-financial year

As reported in previous editions of the *Informus*, the Council received an allocation letter that was silent on the Compensation of Employees (COE) in the budget vote. The PSA made a follow-up with the employer as it was previously agreed that it will pursue the enquiry on the 0% allocation. The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) informed the employer that continuous discussion with National Treasury is ongoing and it will be informed of developments. The presentation indicated a salary cap of R251 million. It had already spent R254 million, an overspending by R3 million. During March 2020 there was an indication by National Treasury that there would be an increase in parliamentary grant, but suddenly there was a 20% budget cut. During the 2019/20-financial year, there was a further cut of 10%. In October 2020, a letter from National Treasury, through DSI, indicated that a further cut of R2.8 million was envisaged. Nevertheless, the Council has done well with research publications on COVID-19 programs. The Council undertook to pursue consultation for possible increment for 2021/22. As soon as there is feedback, an update will be provided.

Once-off payment based on 2020/21-surplus

For the 2019/20-financial year all employees earning above R1 million were awarded an once-off payment of R8 000 and those earning below R1 million, an amount of R9 600. The employer supported in principle a payment from the surplus as proposed by the PSA and will motivate to the Board. The estimated amount may amount to R5 million after auditing. Final figures were expected to be shared on 10 May 2021, but the employer indicated that it is still working on it. Though still work in progress, the PSA demanded in the interim for parties to engage on possibilities, as the surplus is not reliant on National Treasury. The PSA demanded that the employer must disclose the available amount. The employer was adamant that it is impossible at this stage. The motivation of less expenditure during lockdown convinced the employer that there will be sufficient resources. The PSA proposed once-off payment of R20 000 per member across-the-board, which was countered by non-affordability after the department performed a snap calculation. The PSA reduced the demand to R15 000, which was also deemed not attainable. The final demand was R13 000, should the surplus accommodate such. After computerisation based on this amount, the employer considered the amount. The employer assured the PSA that the proposal will be submitted to the Board for consideration during its meeting scheduled for 31 May 2021.

Members will be informed of developments.

The PSA wished all members affected by COVID-19 a speedy recover and offers a special word of comfort to all who lost family members and friends.

GENERAL MANAGER