



# GOA MEMBERS' NOTICE



**APRIL 2008**

**ISSUED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

For more info on any item in this notice please contact Angela Moffatt, [goa@manx.net](mailto:goa@manx.net) or 685759

## **EARLY RETIREMENT**

Many thanks to all the members who have been contacting us over this issue – we are currently collating your views and information which are in addition to those items of evidence sent to us before Christmas demonstrating the range and extent of guarantees given to members.

As has been mentioned previously the Commission have recently reviewed their policy of giving those with 40 years reckonable service, and who have not reached age 60, retirement without actuarial reduction. The Association are in negotiation with the Commission on this issue would welcome members' views on this topic particularly those that could be affected, before a formal response is sent.

## **PROSPECT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION**

Paul Harper Chair GOA, would like to thank all those members who took the time to cast their vote in his favour for the recent election. Regretfully he was not successful but nevertheless enjoyed the challenge of trying to get GOA represented on the national committee. Of the 12,131 votes cast (out of 78,307 ballot papers issued), Paul got 2,624 votes. Nevertheless he remains on Prospect's Civil Service Sector Executive

## **APOLOGIES**

Unfortunately the office was not staffed for a two week period this month due to unexpected illness. The EC did provide cover to pick up messages/emails but apologies for any inconvenience caused to members, which was unavoidable.

Please note that the following periods will be covered on a skeleton basis due to training/UK travel commitments shortly:

28 April – 1 May (inclusive)

19 – 21 May (inclusive)

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience but cover will be provided by the Prospect North office and emails checked during these periods. If you call the office you may find that query is dealt with by a member of staff in our Prospect Rotherham office, so apologies for any confusion caused!

## **PAY ON PROMOTION**

The Commission have recently rejected proposals to amend pay on promotion and bring the rules in line with pay on recruitment i.e. to take into account relevant skills, qualifications and experience where demonstrated by internal candidates. In order to further strengthen our case we are seeking members to come forward with their experiences if they feel they have been disadvantaged by the current rules.. We have some examples already but we would like to represent as many of our members experiences as possible. If you feel you have been unfairly treated under the current

rules, then please send us a short email explaining the circumstances. We can anonymise your details if you prefer, but please do get in touch.

As we believe that unfair treatment is not a widespread issue, the EC is surprised that our proposals should be rejected. What we are seeking is consistency of approach irrespective of whether candidates are internal or external ! Your views are most welcome on the subject!

## **GET A MEMBER!**

We're still recruiting and we need all the new members we can get. The best people to get a member to join are existing members like you – so please talk to your colleagues, especially new starters and ask them to join. Anyone can join – Prospect has members who are not civil servants all over the Isle of Man. Forms are on our website – along with info on rates of subscription.

Prospect has over 100,000 members in the UK and we are growing fast – so please help us stay a strong union, as this strength in numbers makes us more effective on your behalf.

**Please remember that if you leave the civil service you can still remain a member of Prospect – just contact us to let us know your change in circumstances.**

## **DRAW RESULTS**

The winners of our random draws were as follows

Recruiter – Feb/March – P Kaya  
New recruit – Feb/March – R Crowe

Each winner will receive £50 of M&S vouchers.

The winner of our draw for the return of personal data forms was D Davies who wins £50.

The latest lottery winner was Julie Brew who wins £237.

## **PERSONAL & GROUP CASES**

The EC is handling upwards of 80 group and personal cases at present which involve anywhere between 1 and 130+ members per case. There has been a rise in recent months, and the EC is concerned about this trend.

If you are experiencing difficulties, please let us know ASAP – often cases can be harder to resolve the later you leave it to seek advice.

Additionally, your EC is handling consultations on staffing issues, attending a variety of forums in order to progress collective issues, as well as trying to improve member services such as the website, discounts, communications, etc.. Inevitably we have to prioritise, so please bear with us.

We need all the help we can get, so please volunteer if you can!

## **NEW WEBSITE NOW LAUNCHED**

The new website has been launched but we are still in the process of updating the content, so please bear with us!

[www.iomgoa.co.uk](http://www.iomgoa.co.uk)

We want to improve our communications via the website, an improved and properly produced newsletter, direct mailing methods, and promotions. If you'd like to be involved contact Angela

Moffatt ([goa@manx.net](mailto:goa@manx.net) or 685759). We are also seeking to develop a Prospect Isle of Man website for all members, regardless of the branch they are in – we'll keep you updated on this.

## REGULAR NOTICES

**Reduced Subs** – if you go onto no pay for any reason contact us ASAP and we can arrange for your subs to reduce to £1.05 per month. Also remember, if you reduce your hours, then your subs might reduce so let us know of changes.

**Change of Details** – let us know when you move address, workplace, change your number/email etc. We need to update your record so if you don't tell us we won't know to do this!