



MEDIA STATEMENT

5th July 2016

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Statement from Toni Walkington CPSU/CSA Secretary

CPSU/CSA can confirm that serious issues have arisen at the Department of Environment Regulation with Jason Banks at the helm as Director General.

We have received multiple employee complaints about a range of issues such as;

Lack of information on changes within the workplace, and grossly inadequate, insulting and immature responses from the Director General to employee concerns.

Such responses have even included the breach of employee confidence and 'naming and shaming' of particular teams.

As part of the Department's numerous reform processes over the past year, workloads dramatically increased as reporting lines kept changing (in some instances more than 10 times) and staff were overwhelmed with re-work created by the new processes.

Bizarrely, department-wide KPIs are being applied to individuals and small teams. As a result, some employees have been threatened with disciplinary action and redundancy if such unrealistic demands were not met.

The pressures being applied to staff have created a very real risk or even incentive to cut corners in discharging the Department's statutory functions under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 such as licensing and registration of premises and the issuing of works approvals in order to meet KPIs. This could result in some applicants being granted a license without meeting proper environmental standards.

Recently positive steps forward had been made for a more consultative workplace, but there are still concerns around the treatment of employees at DER.

For further comment

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