



European Social Charter  
Charte Sociale Européenne



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

29/10/2012

RAP/Cha/IRE/IX(2012)Add

## EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

### REPLY TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

9<sup>th</sup> National Report on the implementation of  
the European Social Charter

submitted by

**THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND**

(Article 1§2  
for the period 01/01/2007 – 31/12/2010)

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Report registered by the Secretariat on 30 August 2012

**CYCLE 2012**



An Rannóg um Bainistíocht Acmhainní Daonna  
Human Resource Management Section

30 Aug 2012

Mr Declan Power  
Defence Forces Personnel Policy Branch

**REPLY TO EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS**  
**COMPULSORY MINIMUM PERIODS OF SERVICE**

1. Your email correspondence of 07 Aug refers.
2. The term “compulsory minimum period of service” is taken to mean minimum durations of standard employment contracts existing once personnel have volunteered to serve in the Defence Forces.
3. There is no compulsory minimum period of service. Personnel serving in the Defence Forces may choose to end their employment at any time. In situations where enlisted personnel choose to leave with less than 5 years military service, a fee ranging from €50 to €300 may be applicable.
4. Instances where specialized courses of training or education have been availed of are provided for by service undertakings. While Defence Forces personnel may still choose to terminate their service at any time, fees and/or costs associated with certain courses may require to be repaid. Service undertakings are calculated based on cost and/or duration of a particular course.
5. Please let me know should you have any further questions.

KIERAN BRENNAN,  
COLONEL,  
DIRECTOR HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SECTION



**SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW**

**DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

*HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER  
AND THE EUROPEAN CODE OF SOCIAL SECURITY,  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS*

ESC 170  
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Ms Geraldine Lynch Reilly  
Employment Rights Policy Unit  
Department of Jobs  
Enterprise and Innovation - Davitt House  
Dublin 2 Ireland

Strasbourg, 14 June 2012

Dear Ms Lynch Reilly,

The European Committee of Social Rights is currently examining the States' reports on the European Social Charter with respect to the thematic group on "employment, training and equal opportunities" and has instructed me to forward to you the enclosed questions.

The Committee would be grateful if you could reply to these questions before 27 July 2012 in order to allow the information to be taken into account in Conclusions 2012.

Yours sincerely,

Régis Brillat



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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

COMITE EUROPEEN DES DROITS SOCIAUX

14 June 2012

Questions addressed to Ireland

Article 1§2 (prohibition of discrimination in employment/ forced labour/ right to earn one's living in an occupation freely entered upon):

- *What is the length of, if any, compulsory minimum period of service required of those serving in the professional armed forces?*
- *Are there circumstances, such as specialised training or specific operational requirements, which entail a different compulsory minimum term of service in the professional armed forces and under what conditions may the persons concerned leave the service before the expiry of this term?*