



**Cónaidhm Éireannach na Múinteoirí Ollscoile  
Irish Federation of University Teachers**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FRIDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2009**

**Talks failure ‘missed opportunity by government’,  
says IFUT**

The breakdown today of talks between the unions and Government on public sector pay talks represents a failed opportunity to get our economy and society back on track, Mike Jennings, General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT), has said.

“Government officials and trade unions negotiators had been achingly close to reaching an overall agreement which would have brought about an historic transformation of the public sector. The decision by An Taoiseach to reject the proposals will be a major blow to those working to achieve a return to economic growth and preservation of jobs and living standards from 2010 onwards.

“An agreement would have created the basis for radical progress on reform and a new type of Partnership arrangement. By rejecting the deal the Cabinet has returned us to the uncertainty and lack of direction that has plagued our economy and jobs market for over a year,” Mike Jennings said.

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**For further information on this media release, please contact:**

Mike Jennings,  
General Secretary,  
Irish Federation of University Teachers,  
11 Merrion Square,  
Dublin 2.

Tel: (01) 661 0910  
(087) 677 6747

E-mail: [IFUT@eircom.net](mailto:IFUT@eircom.net)

John Gallagher, John Gallagher Consulting. Tel: (087) 936 9888