

The staff associations were advised that a training centre will be set up in the Fontaine building to train all individuals who will interface with the operations of COSICS.

Management also reported that a COSICS newsletter will be published and distributed to all responsibility centres. The first newsletter will provide a general overview and description of COSICS, and invite all employees to participate in a competition for the design of a COSICS logo.

4. Box 500 Mailing Privileges:

In response to a staff-side request, management reviewed the issue of whether existing Box 500 facilities would allow employees at hardship posts to receive various publications.

Management suggested that employees could have their subscriptions handled by way of their parcel allotments, as the use of the existing Box 500 facility would be very labour-intensive and costly.

5. Workforce Adjustment:

The staff associations requested an update.

Management reported that since the downsizing exercise began, there has been a reduction of the Departmental workforce of 5.5%. This figure would translate into approximately 200 person years. Of the 200 person years affected, it was only necessary to lay-off four employees. In all other cases, redeployment efforts were successful. Currently, there are only two employees on surplus status.

Management reported that 49 employees have opted to voluntarily accept a lump-sum payment and resign in lieu of a surplus period.

6. Privileges and Immunities for Support Staff:

The staff associations requested an update.

Management reported that a survey of the policies of other countries with which our practices are usually compared is being conducted. Although the survey is not yet complete,