

Police Federation
Of England and Wales



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Lloegr a Chymru

Established by Act of Parliament

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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

IR/sg

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JBB CIRCULAR NO : 024/2011

TO: ALL BRANCH BOARDS

Dear Colleagues

HOLIDAY LEAVE FOR POLICE OFFICERS' SCHOOLCHILDREN 2012

As a result of the potential restrictions on officers taking holidays during the summer of 2012 due to the operational requirements of the Olympics, the ACPO Demand and Resources unit has raised the issue of police officers' children being taken out of school for holidays during term time.

The Department of Education has responded as follows:

"The Government takes attendance very seriously because there is clear evidence that any absence from school can and does impact on children's attainment. It follows that schools should keep any leave of absence granted to a minimum.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 state that head teachers may grant leave of absence for the purpose of family holidays during term time. They also state that the application must be made in advance and the head teacher must be satisfied that there are special circumstances which warrant the leave.

It is for each school to decide what constitutes special circumstances. However, the Department would consider that a ban on summer leave for

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serving officers in the Police force during the summer of 2012, because of capacity issues during and around the time of the Olympics, would constitute a special circumstance that would warrant the head teacher considering granting leave of absence for the purpose of family holiday during term time, subject to minimal disruption to the pupil's education.

The Department looks to schools themselves to consider each request for holiday absence on its merits. Each request can only be judged on a case-by-case basis taking into account individual circumstances, such as the child's attainment, attendance and ability to catch up on missed schooling and the proximity of key dates for tests and examinations. The school should also take into account any extenuating circumstances, such as the inflexibility of leave patterns for parents. While leave of absence might be granted for a term time holiday, it is granted entirely at the head's discretion, and is not a parental right.

We would not consider altering the recording and reporting arrangements for leave of absence during term time as it is important that schools have an accurate record of the amount of education a pupil has missed; this will help to identify those pupils that might need additional support."

I would stress that it is for individual Officers to make contact with their children's schools, and that early notice is more likely to be successful. All Forces should now know their commitments in respect of officer numbers and as such should be identifying individual officers and allocating shifts.

Yours sincerely



IAN RENNIE
General Secretary