



22 August 2016

To: Branch Officers, Workplace Representatives
Executive Committee (for information)

TUI advice regarding the use of the Croke Park Hours

Dear Colleagues,

In the ballot of members, conducted before the summer break, TUI members accepted the DES/TUI Agreement of May 2016. Therefore, members are covered by the Lansdowne Road Agreement and have an ongoing commitment in regard to the 33 Croke Park Agreement (CPA) hours.

The TUI understands that the ASTI has directed its members not to fulfil the 33 Croke Park Agreement (CPA) hours as set out in CL 0025/2011, as amended by CL 0043/2014. Therefore, as advised in TUI's letter of 31st May to members, the resultant situation will need to be managed in a way that is respectful of all parties.

In this context, the TUI is providing the following clarification to members in regard to the 33 CPA hours:

- TUI members have engaged with the normal planning process for usage of the 33 CPA hours. This involved the development, before the end of the last school year, of a calendar for use of the hours. In relation to blocks of more than 2 hours or scheduling outside of 167 days, decisions in relation to the calendar required consensus.
- Members of the TUI should be available to fulfil each element of their commitment in respect of the 33 hours, as set out in the school's calendar for 2016/17. This means that members must be in attendance in their school/centre on the day/s designated in the school calendar for use of the 33 hours.
- The designation of a day as a staff day to utilise some of the CPA hours (i.e. what is often referred to as a "Croke Park day") – typically, the first day or two following the summer break – is generally intended for whole school purposes, unless otherwise specified in the calendar for use of the hours. Whereas TUI members must be in attendance on such a designated day, whole school purposes cannot be served where attendance by teachers is not on a whole school basis.
- If, as a result of the ASTI directive or for any other reason, management locally or nationally decides not to proceed with some element of the calendar for the specified scheduled usage of the 33 hours (for example, a staff day) the TUI will regard members affected by that decision as having fulfilled that element of their CPA hours commitment.

- If, for example, Thursday 25th August (and/or any other day) was scheduled as a staff day to utilise 6 of the CPA hours, TUI will regard members as having done those hours in the event of a decision by management:
 - not to proceed with the staff day
 - to re-designate all or part of the day as a school day within the 167 days
 - to relocate/defer the staff day to a later date or
 - to re-designate all or part of the staff day as being for a purpose other than that which was set out in the agreed calendar for usage of the CPA hours.

The net effect is that the TUI will in any such circumstances regard members as having completed 6 of the 33 CPA hours, and will support members where or if this position is challenged.

- Arising from the DES/TUI Agreement of May 2016, and effective from the commencement of the 2016/17 school year, 8 of the 33 hours are for use in blocks of no less than 30 minutes and on other than a whole-school basis, in accordance with the terms of CL43/2014, as amended by paragraph 21 of CL45/2016. The 8 hours, that are to be done on other than a whole school basis, cannot be included in a staff day designated for whole school purposes. The 8 hours remain to be delivered in line with the DES/TUI Agreement of May 2016 from within the residue of CPA hours (i.e from within the hours that remain when the hours assigned per staff day are discounted).
- The TUI understands that the ASTI has advised its members that attendance at enrolment open nights is not prohibited by its directive and may be undertaken on a voluntary basis. The TUI is aware that, in many schools, attendance at such open nights forms part of the usage of the 33 CPA hours, as does attendance at registration nights etc. That will continue to be the case for TUI members.
- As the ASTI is in dispute in relation to the 33 hours, a member of the TUI may not, in the course of usage of the 33 hours, undertake any work normally done by a member of the ASTI.

The TUI will provide regular updates. If you require any assistance or advice, please contact your branch or Area Representative (Contact details are available in the TUI Diary and Handbook).

Yours sincerely,



Joanne Irwin,
President



John MacGabhann
General Secretary