

Update of SNCT Working Groups 6 October 2009

Conditions of Service Working Group

The Working Group had preliminary discussions on conditions of service issues arising from the swine flu pandemic. These discussions were taken forward by a Swine Flu Working Group.

The Working Group considered a redraft of the Job Sizing Questionnaire and Guidance Notes arising from the work of the Job Sizing Review Sub Group. There will be a period of further refinement of the paperwork. The Joint Secretaries have been asked to consider the application of changes to the software and issues related to testing the revisions. In addition, the Joint Secretaries are also considering training of job sizing coordinators. The Working Group also considered a number of further issues which arose during the work of the Sub Group. These matters will be continued to a future meeting.

The Working Group has considered the implications arising from ECJ and House of Lords rulings on leave entitlement. This will impact upon compensatory leave provisions in the SNCT Handbook, arising from both illness and maternity. This matter is ongoing.

The Government's intention to introduce "fit notes" may impact on current absence notification procedures set out in the SNCT Handbook and the Working Group will keep this under review.

Finally, the Working Group is considering the requirement for educational psychologists to be chartered. Following the requirement from 1 July 2009 for educational psychologists to be registered by the Health Professions Council, the issue of chartered status for salary progression requires to be reviewed.

Swine Flu Working Group

A working group was established to review conditions of service issues arising from the swine flu pandemic. The group received presentations from Scottish Government's health advisers and from Scottish Government's advisory team for schools. Following these presentations, the working group considered 'outline of issues' papers from the employers' side and teachers' side secretariats. The matter was then remitted to Joint Chairs to finalise the

details of a Circular. Circular SNCT/09/15, Swine Flu Pandemic – Maintaining Continuity of Education, was issued on 29 September 2009.