

REPORT ON THE TRADE UNION FACILITY TIME SCHEME 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR – REQUEST FROM ATL

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the schools forum to consider a request for funding, from ATL.

Information and Advice

2. By law, trade union representatives are entitled to reasonable paid time off from their regular job to enable them to perform their union duties and undertake relevant training.
3. The current funding arrangement for trade union facility time in maintained schools is that this budget is de-delegated and held by the Local Authority on behalf of maintained schools. This is a schools forum decision. Funding for academies is delegated to individual academies. Academies can then chose to 'buy back' into the scheme.
4. The budget retained by Nottinghamshire in 2016/17 is based on a per pupil charge of £1.51 for Primary schools and £1.64 for Secondary schools, giving a planned budget of £158,081, with Nottinghamshire retaining £83,802 for maintained schools. Academies can choose whether or not to pay back in to the scheme.

Request from ATL

5. ATL Union currently has no representation in Nottinghamshire, but has recently elected a representative who works full time at an Academy in Derbyshire. ATL has requested, via the LA, that the school forum consider releasing facilities funding to the Academy in Derbyshire to allow the staff member to represent Nottinghamshire ATL Members. (Appendix A)
6. Specifically, ATL would like schools forum to consider the following points;
 - a) *that Nottinghamshire staff in a recognised organisation, ATL, are not currently represented*
 - b) *that schools and academies are paying into a fund in the expectation that there is representation for their staff, yet this is not the case in respect of ATL's members in Nottinghamshire*

- c) *that there are some MATs which have schools in several local Authority areas which has created a cross border dimension to facilities payments*
 - d) *that other schools outside Nottinghamshire, such as Bilborough College, buy into some services provided by Nottinghamshire. It could be that in the future a union officer from one of these schools is elected as Branch Secretary and would therefore need facilities money from Nottinghamshire in order to be released to undertake this important function in Nottinghamshire schools*
 - e) *Union support and representation of members has an important role in developing and supporting smooth and harmonious working relationships in schools*
 - f) *that anomalies such as this are likely to occur more frequently over time*
7. The notional budget available for ATL representatives is approximately £14,000 (based on previous allocations). Facilities funding is paid on cover costs to the school, up to the allocation available.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the Schools Forum considers the request raised by ATL, specifically those points listed in paragraph 6 of the report.

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