



FURTHER EDUCATION/TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Guidelines in respect of requests for support for Further Education/ Training and Development Courses in relation to Committee's Clerical and Administrative Staff.

INTRODUCTION:

RATIONALE

Co Donegal VEC, under its Education Plan 2006-2010, is committed to promoting and encouraging the personal and professional development of all its employees. It is particularly committed to the provision of education and training opportunities for those members of staff who may not previously have had a chance to gain qualifications or to participate in appropriate learning options. This policy seeks to actively encourage and facilitate the Committee's **Clerical and Administrative Staff** to undertake further education and training which may lead to improved promotional prospects and/or increased continuous professional development and which will result in the delivery of an overall improved quality service for the organisation.

RETURN TO STUDY

Many adults who do not routinely engage in further education and training experience anxiety and nervousness at the prospect of taking up a course of study, in spite of their genuine wish to do so. The Committee's Adult Education Service can provide customised "Return to Study" courses which provide skills and guidance in this area. The Committee also operates an Adult Educational Guidance Service which can offer guidance to those employees wishing to explore available learning opportunities and support services

THE PROCESS

1 Recommendation/Permission to attend Course of Study.

Permission of County Donegal VEC to be obtained in advance in respect of any course of study for which support is sought. Recommendation in the first instance will be via Principal/Director/Head Office Line Manager/AEO in consultation, if necessary, with the Human Resources Division. (See attached Request Form at Appendix 1)

2. Relevance of Course of Study.

Any course undertaken must be relevant to the:

- (a) Strategic aims of Co. Donegal VEC, as set out in **Committee's Education Plan 2006 - 2010;**
- (b) Current duties being carried out by the employee/possible future needs of the **post/administrative area or Scheme;**
- (c) Personal Development of the employee as agreed under the Performance Management Development System. (PMDS)

3. **Funding/Refund by Donegal VEC.**

Subject to paragraph 4 below, the percentage of course/examination fees to be funded /refunded, will normally be:-

- (a) 100% funded, by Co. Donegal VEC where courses are relevant to 2(a) and 2(b) above and where the particular course has been initiated/organised by the Principal/Director/Head Office Line Manager/AEO and approved by the Head of Administration;
- (b) 50% refund where courses/exam fee is relevant to 2(c) above and where the particular course has been initiated by the employee, and agreed with the employer. Note Department of Education and Science Circular Letters 45/82 and 54/85 allow 100% refund in certain circumstances.

Note: Employees will be expected to complete the Course and to provide evidence of attendance at the course.

4. **Conditions for Refund.**

Refund outlined at paragraph 3(b) above will be re-imbursed only on receipt of:

- (a) Written confirmation of successful completion of the Course, and
- (b) Original receipts for any monies paid in respect of the course

5. **Repayment of fees by Employee to Co. Donegal VEC.**

The repayment of fees by the employee, to Donegal VEC may be applicable, in certain circumstances, in the event of the employee leaving the employment of Donegal VEC. [Refers to paragraph 3(b) above]

6. **Leave of Absence to attend Courses.**

Employees will be facilitated, where possible, to attend courses during normal working hours.

7. **Travel and Subsistence**

Travel and Subsistence allowances as per Department of Education and Science agreed rates for courses outlined at 2(a) above. Travel and subsistence allowances will not be payable for attendance at any other course.

8. **Study Leave (CL F45/82 refers)**

Study leave, in preparation for examination(s) associated with short accredited recognised courses, three (3) days study leave with pay may be permitted for each year of the short accredited course.

Study leave, in preparation for examination(s) associated with accredited recognised courses of three years or longer duration, a maximum limit of five (5) days study leave with pay in respect of each academic year of the course. (See Appendix 2)

9. **Exam Leave**

Exam leave may be approved when undertaking an examination of a recognised accredited course. (See Appendix 2)

10. **Review of Training and Development Policy**

This Policy will be reviewed in accordance with Co. Donegal VEC's Education Plan. Applications for funding may be prioritised subject to resources and other relevant considerations.

May 2008



**FURTHER EDUCATION/TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT
CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

APPENDIX 1

APPLICATION FOR:

- Approval to attend at Further Education/Training and Development Courses
- Payment of Course/Examination Fees (where appropriate)

Please indicate [✓] which category of course you are making application under:

- The course below has been initiated/organised by the Principal/Director/Head Office Line Manager/AEO and approved by Head of Administration 100% funding], or
- The course below has been initiated by the employee, and agreed by the employer [50% refund]

APPLICANT DETAILS:

Name: _____	Post/Grade: _____	
Headquarters: _____	Contract Type:	PERMANENT WHOLETIME
_____		TEMPORARY WHOLE TIME
_____		REGULAR PART-TIME
_____		CID (Contract of Indefinite Duration)
_____		FIXED TERM

COURSE DETAILS: [Please attach relevant course details to this form]

Course Title: _____

Brief Description of Course: _____

Course Organised by: _____

Course Location: _____

Duration: _____ Start Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Expected Completion Date: ____ / ____ / ____

ATTENDANCE DETAILS:

Days per week (e.g. Monday): _____ Hours per day: _____

Start time: _____ Finish time: _____

APPLICATION FOR:

- Payment of Course/Examination Fees (where appropriate)

FUNDING DETAILS:

1. Cost per Course Period € _____
2. Total Cost to Completion € _____

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING OTHER THAN DONEGAL VEC: (tick as appropriate)

I have made no application/received funding for the above course other than from Donegal VEC

I have made application for funding from another source. Details outlined below:

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVING REFUND OF FEES:

I understand that should my request for a refund be granted that it is conditional on my successful completion of the course within the specified time.

Note: The repayment of fees by the employee, to Donegal VEC may be applicable, in certain circumstances, in the event of the employee leaving the employment of Donegal VEC.

UNDERTAKING BY EMPLOYEE:

I hereby undertake to supply Co. Donegal V.E.C. with original documentary evidence of attendance at, and successful completion of, the course immediately upon receipt of certification.

STUDY LEAVE:

I understand that Study Leave may be applied for at a later date and only when a significant portion of the education/training course has been successfully undertaken.

Signed: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____
Employee

Department: _____ School/Centre: _____

Countersigned: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____
Line Manager/Authorising Officer

Countersigned: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____
Head of Administration

**Please return the Countersigned Form to:
Training & Development, HR Division, Co. Donegal VEC, Ard O'Donnell, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal**

For Office Use Only

Application received on: ____ / ____ / ____
Decision by CEO dated: ____ / ____ / ____
Reply to Applicant dated: ____ / ____ / ____



**FURTHER EDUCATION/TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT
CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

APPENDIX 2

APPLICATION FOR STUDY/EXAMINATION LEAVE

Study Leave

Study leave, in preparation for examination(s) associated with short accredited recognised courses, three (3) days study leave with pay may be permitted for each year of the short accredited course.

Study leave, in preparation for examination(s) associated with accredited recognised courses of three years or longer duration, a maximum limit of five (5) days study leave with pay in respect of each academic year of the course.

Exam Leave

Exam leave may be approved when undertaking an examination of a recognised accredited course.

Please indicate [✓] which category of course you are making application under:

- The course below has been initiated/organised by the Principal/Director/Head Office Line Manager/AEO and approved by Head of Administration [100% funding], or
- The course below has been initiated by the employee, and agreed by the employer [50% refund]

APPLICANT DETAILS:

Name:	_____	Post/Grade:	_____
School/Centre:	_____	Contract Type:	PERMANENT WHOLETIME
	_____		TEMPORARY WHOLE TIME
	_____		REGULAR PART-TIME
	_____		CID (Contract of Indefinite Duration)
	_____		FIXED TERM

Course Title: _____

Progress to date on Course: (please attach copy of VEC Approval to attend course)

Reason for Request: _____

SPECIFIC DETAILS OF STUDY LEAVE

Total number of days Study Leave requested re. above course: _____

Date(s) on which you wish to avail of Study Leave: _____

Total Number of days Study Leave taken year to date: _____

SPECIFIC DETAILS OF EXAMINATION LEAVE

Date(s) of examination(s) which apply to above course: [Please attach written evidence of above examination date(s)]

I hereby make application for study/examination leave for the reasons stated above from Co. Donegal VEC.

I undertake to use the study/examination days requested for the purpose stated.

Signed: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____
Employee

Countersigned: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____
Line Manager/Authorising Officer

**Please return the Countersigned Form to:
Training & Development, HR Division, Co. Donegal VEC, Ard O'Donnell, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal**

For Office Use Only

Application received on: ____ / ____ / ____

Decision by CEO dated: ____ / ____ / ____

Reply to Applicant dated: ____ / ____ / ____



**FORM OF UNDERTAKING BY THE EMPLOYEE
TO COUNTY DONEGAL VEC.**

With reference to Paragraph 5 of the Training and Development Policy, I hereby undertake to refund payment of € _____, i.e. course fees in respect of the _____ course completed by me during the _____ academic session/course period in the event of my leaving Co. Donegal VEC before completing one year's service in respect of each academic year or course period for which a payment has been made to me.

Note: The academic years or course periods themselves not to reckon as service in the context.

Signed: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Employee
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APPENDIX 4

REQUEST FOR RE-IMBURSEMENT OF FEES PAID

Name:	_____
Position:	_____
Course Title:	_____
Date on which Course Successfully Completed	_____

With reference to Paragraph 4 of the Training and Development Policy, I hereby request a re-imbusement of € _____, as per application made previously using Appendix 1 of the Training and Development Policy.

I have attached for your attention

- (a) Original certificate/written confirmation of successful completion of the Course, and
- (b) **Original receipts** for monies paid in respect of the course

Signed: _____	Date: ____ / ____ / ____
Employee	