



Circular Letter 0024/2021

**To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Primary, Secondary,
Community and Comprehensive Schools**

**Updated: Revised Payment Mechanism for Hourly-Paid Bus
Escorts with effect from the commencement of the 2021/2022
Academic Year
Cessation of “Rolled-up Holiday Pay”**

Purpose of Circular:

1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform hourly-paid bus escorts in recognised Primary, Secondary and Community & Comprehensive Schools of the changes to pay arrangements for hourly-paid bus escorts with effect from the commencement of the 2021/2022 academic year.
2. The hourly rates paid to bus escorts have heretofore included an element in respect of annual leave. This practice is known as “rolled-up holiday pay”. The effect of this Circular is to cease the practice of paying “rolled-up holiday pay” to such staff and to introduce a separate payment in respect of holiday pay. This change is being made to bring the method of remunerating such staff into line with the European Union Working Time Directive, following a decision of the European Commission.
3. It is important to note that the overall remuneration of such staff is not being changed as a result of this circular. The pay of a staff member under the new arrangements set out in this Circular in respect of any period of employment will be equal to the pay which the staff member would have received for the corresponding period of employment under the pre-existing arrangements.

**Changes to Hourly-Paid Bus Escorts who currently receive “Rolled-up
Holiday Pay”**

4. The changes are summarised as follows:
 - a. Where hourly-paid staff currently receive “rolled-up holiday pay”, with effect from the commencement of the 2021/2022 academic year, 8% will be removed from the current hourly rate. This represents the staff member’s statutory annual leave entitlement. The staff member will accumulate statutory annual leave to the value of 8% of time worked.
 - b. The Organisation of Working Time Act provides that the times at which annual leave is granted to an employee shall be determined by his or her employer. Therefore, bus escorts will take and be paid their



accumulated statutory annual leave entitlement during the closure periods at Christmas, Easter and summer as follows:

- i. During the Christmas closure period, bus escorts will take the statutory annual leave which they have accumulated since the commencement of the academic year and will be paid for such leave;
 - ii. During the Easter closure period, bus escorts will take the statutory annual leave which they have accumulated since the end of the Christmas closure period and will be paid for such leave;
 - iii. During the summer closure period, bus escorts will take the statutory annual leave which they accumulated since the end of the Easter closure period and will be paid for such leave.
- c. The base hourly rate includes payment for all of the bus escort's working time apart from the bus escort's statutory annual leave.
- d. These revised arrangements will be implemented with effect from the commencement of the 2021/2022 academic year.

Circulations and Queries

5. Please ensure that copies of this Circular are provided to all Managerial Authorities of recognised Primary, Secondary and Community & Comprehensive Schools and its contents are brought to the attention of all relevant staff in your employment including those on leave of absence.
6. This Circular can be accessed on the Department's website under <http://www.gov.ie/education>
7. Queries from bus escorts in relation to this Circular should be addressed to their employer in the first instance. If further assistance is required please forward queries to escorttransport@education.gov.ie.

Issued by: Mark Bohan
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Shirley Kearney
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School Transport

Date issued: 30th September 2021