

From: Dave White, HASSRA National Chairperson

To: HASSRA Members

Date: 9th December 2010

SPECIAL LEAVE FOR HASSRA EVENTS

You may recall that Leigh Lewis and I corresponded earlier in the year about the issue of Special Leave in relation to the 2010 Special Event at Canterbury. At that time it was felt that it would not be appropriate for 500 or so HASSRA members to be granted up to two days Special Leave to attend the event against a backdrop of the economic downturn and public expenditure pressures.

Since then we have received reports of some business units interpreting this particular decision as applying to all HASSRA events. I can confirm this was not the case and was never within Leigh's nor my contemplation. The decision regarding Special Event was taken on its own facts and had no application beyond the circumstances of Special Event at that time. I can also confirm that the Department has not changed its policy on Special Leave, which may still be applied for and granted by business managers subject to the overriding consideration of business need.

The DWP Policy on Special Leave for HASSRA events is listed under Public and Community Leave and states:

You will normally be allowed paid leave to participate or officiate at HASSRA/CSSC events or in national or international sporting championships. This includes contributing to the organisation or administration of such events or contributing to the organising body in an official capacity. If you are granted time off with pay you must not claim or accept attendance fees or any compensation other than for travel and subsistence.

I hope this clarifies the matter and that I may count on you to endeavour to ensure any misunderstandings in your business areas are resolved in accordance with the current DWP policy on Special Leave.

Dave White