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W J Ievers Esq
Hon Secretary
The National Association of Head Teachers
Northern Ireland Federation
Towerview Primary School
Ballymacormick Drive
BANGOR
Co Down

18 June 1981

Dear Mr Ievers

In your letter of 12 June (in response to mine of 22 May) you suggest that the Department took an "unusual step" in asking for explanations of absence from teachers in St Louise's Comprehensive College, Belfast. I assume that you must not be aware of the circumstances in which that particular request was made and therefore will find it helpful to have that information.

The school return for May showed a number of teachers absent on various days owing to "transport difficulties". You will be aware from Circular 1980/53 that the recommended action in such cases is that leave with pay should be granted but "regard must be had to the individual circumstances". It was therefore necessary for the Department to seek further details about each case, just as it has done in a number of similar cases in other schools. There is nothing unusual or unreasonable about this. Indeed I can think of no occupation where an employee would expect to be paid salary for a day's absence from work without providing considerably more detailed reasons for his absence than "transport difficulties".

Yours sincerely

WJ
no name in file
Mr Armitage
PL copy for our files
Mr Mac Donald - To see and you may wish to copy
JENNINGS
Jan 19/6/81

Mrs Jendarli

Mr Higgins *19/6/81*
Please file with previous correspondence.

WJ 18/6.

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