

Department of Finance and Personnel
Interoffice Memorandum

Date: 15-Feb-1996 03:12pm GMT
From: ALL-IN-1 System Manager
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Dept: Finance & Personnel
Tel No: 526382

TO: See Below

Subject: Peace Rally

cc Secretary
Mr Quinn
Mr Gowdy
Mr Dillon
Mr Watkins
Mr McKeown
Mr Cole
Mr Bell
Mr Court
Ms Goldring
Mr Orr
Mr Jardine
Mr Todd
Mrs Alloway

FROM: J G Taylor

15 February 1996

TO:

Heads of Branches

PEACE RALLY: 16 FEBRUARY 1996

I attach for your urgent attention a minute from Sir David Fell which provides guidance for you on the approach you should take to absences from work to-morrow.

In essence you are encouraged to take a supportive stance towards attendance at the Peace Rally and I would be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of all staff.

HCS/160/96

FROM: SIR DAVID FELL
15 FEBRUARY 1996

cc PS/PUS (B&L) - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Gowdy
PEOs

NI PERMANENT SECRETARIES

PEACE RALLY: 16 FEBRUARY 1996

1. You are probably aware of the Belfast Peace Rally which NIC/ICTU are organising - in conjunction with the CBI, the Chamber of Commerce, local women's groups and the voluntary sector - on Friday 16 February 1996.
2. The Peace Rally will take place over the lunch time period (from 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm) in front of Belfast City Hall. The Unions are asking both public and private sector employers to allow staff to participate. Tom Gillen, who is acting Regional Officer of NIC/ICTU during Terry Carlin's extended sick leave, has been in touch to ask for our co-operation in allowing staff to participate. I have indicated to him that the NICS will co-operate to the same extent as we did for the Community Day for Unifying Peace on 18 November 1993. But, as on that occasion, attendance at the Rally tomorrow could involve absences from work extending into normal core time working (which generally begins at 2.00 pm) and it will be necessary to ensure that staff are not penalised if they have to travel some distance from their work to get to the Rally.
3. I should be grateful, therefore, if you would ensure that staff who do encroach into core time working (but only up to 2.30 pm) in order to attend the Peace Rally are allowed to do so without penalty. Staff attending the Rally should be permitted to record the actual time spent away from their work or a 1 hour lunch break, whichever is the shorter period, on the basis that they return to the office by 2.30 pm. Any

absences beyond 2.30 pm should be added to the 1 hour recorded lunch break.

Finally any agreement to allow staff to attend the Rally should take account of the need to maintain essential public services and management should make arrangements with staff to take account of this requirement. But it is important that in the current climate Departments and Agencies are not seen to be inattentive in the handling of absences to attend such events.

3. This minute should be taken as covering the instruction which would normally have issued from DPM Whiteley House.

4. Finally, may I ask each of you to encourage any Belfast-based NGOs for which your Department is responsible to take a similarly supportive stance towards the Peace Rally, consistent with the need to maintain essential public services.

DAVID VELL

Distribution:

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TO: Mr. [illegible]
TO: Mr. [illegible]
TO: Mr. [illegible]
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4. Clearly any agreement to allow staff to attend the Rally should take account of the need to maintain essential public services and management should make arrangements with staff to take account of this requirement. But it is important that in the current climate Departments and Agencies are not seen to be insensitive in the handling of absences to attend this event.
5. This minute should be taken as covering the instruction which would normally have issued from DFP Whitley Branch.
6. Finally, may I ask each of you to encourage any Belfast-based NDPBs for which your Department is responsible to take a similarly supportive stance towards the Peace Rally, consistent always with the need to maintain essential public services.

DAVID FELL

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