

Scotland Excel Joint Committee

To: Joint Committee

On: 12 June 2015

Report by Director

Organisation Information Report

1. Introduction

As part of the governance process members of the Joint Committee are advised on an annual basis of staff absence rates, special leave given to staff and hospitality granted by the organisation. This year the information has been combined into a single report to members.

2. Scotland Excel Staff Absence

The Joint Committee has previously agreed that Scotland Excel should work to an absence rate of below 4%. This target aligns Scotland Excel with partner organisations, supports good practice in this area and demonstrates the ongoing commitment to absence management as a key efficiency target.

During the current year the average sickness absence rate for staff has been 1.2%, a total of 160 days across all staff. The organisation will continue to monitor this and ensure that, where required, staff are given appropriate support to maintain their attendance.

3. Special Leave

Under item 6.2(w) of the Scheme of Delegation, the Director has the authority to permit any member of staff to absent themselves occasionally and temporarily during business hours to attend to duties or services of a civic honour, charitable, academic or social nature provided that these do not interfere with the efficient discharge of the functions of Scotland Excel and to grant special leave, in accordance with the lead authority's special leave policy.

Scotland Excel follows the HR policies and procedures of the lead authority, Renfrewshire Council. When approving requests for special leave, consideration is always given to the operational requirements of Scotland Excel together with requests that may have been previously granted and outstanding annual leave. Categories of special leave include some medical appointments, illness with family dependants, bereavements, civic duties and exam / study leave. A total of 63 days are recorded, 51.5 days paid leave and 11.5 days unpaid leave, against the undernoted categories.

Reason	Paid or Unpaid	Days
Support family dependants	Paid	8.5
Support family dependants	Unpaid	5
Bereavement	Paid	18.5
Study leave	Paid	7.5
Exam Leave	Paid	14
Jury Duty	Unpaid	6.5
Election Duties	Paid	3

4. Hospitality

Under Item 6.2(e) of the Scheme of Delegation, the Director has the authority to approve the provision of reasonable hospitality to a maximum of £1,000 in relation to one occasion where this is thought to be in the interests of Scotland Excel.

In the last financial year this provision was used once as part of the delivery of the Local Government Procurement Community Annual Event held at the Beardmore Hotel and Conference Centre, Clydebank in March 2015.

This event was attended by 83 delegates from 29 local authorities and as part of the two day event, Scotland Excel hosted an evening dinner for 48 local authority representatives. The cost of this dinner was £932.

5. Recommendation

The Joint Committee is requested to note the contents of report.