



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

NHS Circular:  
MEL.(1993)14

National Health Service in Scotland  
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

**SPECIAL LEAVE FOR ATTENDING MEETINGS OF  
THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL**

**Summary**

1. This letter offers guidance on the granting of special leave to medical staff for attendance at meetings of the General Medical Council and its Committees.

**Action**

1. Health Boards and Trusts are asked to note the guidance on the granting of special leave set out in the attached annex.

2. This letter should be copied to Unit General Managers for information.

Yours sincerely

A MATHESON  
Director of Manpower

2 February 1993

**Addressees**

For action:  
General Managers,  
Health Boards

General Manager,  
Common Services Agency

General Manager, State  
Hospital

Chief Executives, NHS  
Trusts

For information:  
General Manager,  
Health Education Board  
for Scotland

Chief Executives  
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<b>COMMON SERVICES AGENCY</b>	
<b>RECEIVED:</b>	
17 FEB 1993	
FILE No.	
<b>REFERRED TO</b>	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b>

1. Some general managers have expressed concern about the frequency and length of absences of medical staff who are required to attend meetings of the General Medical Council (GMC) and its constituent Committees.

2. Attendance at meetings of the GMC is not listed among the specific circumstances for which special leave may be granted under paragraphs 261 to 273 of the terms and conditions of service for hospital medical and dental staff. Paragraph 260 provides, however, that special leave with pay may be granted under paragraphs 1 and 2 of section 3 of the General Whitley Council conditions of service for essential civic and public duties of the kinds listed in Section 29 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978. Special leave without pay may be granted at the discretion of the employing authority under paragraph 3 of section 3 .

3. The GMC is a statutory body which performs essential functions in the regulation of the medical profession, and medical staff should be allowed to attend GMC meetings as far as service needs permit. Health Boards and Trusts are asked therefore to consider applications for special leave for this purpose sympathetically and to resolve any problems locally.