

THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

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

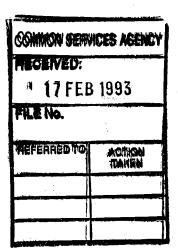
1. This letter offers guidance on the granting of special leave to medical staff for attendance at meetings of the General Medical Council and its Committees.

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



A 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 Designate, NHS Trusts

Enquiries to:

Mr R J M Pugh Directorate of Manpower NHS Management Executive Room 61A St Andrew's House EDINBURGH EH1 3DE Tel: 031 244 2476 Fax: 031 244 2683

- 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.