

URGENT

GOVERNORS TO REMOVE STAFF ON FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

Prison governors have decided that there will be no uniformed staff available on Friday afternoons in the usual way and as a result, no teaching will be carried out. This will have a direct impact on members scheduled to teach on Fridays.

How is this being implemented?

We understand that colleges and other providers will still have to deliver the same amount of hours stipulated in their contract with the LSC and there will be no reduction in hours or teaching. Colleges and providers are now trying to meet this new requirement by re-arranging timetables so that teaching is delivered at other times and using Friday afternoons for non-teaching activities.

How will you be affected?

It is not clear if and how this will affect YOIs or juvenile establishments. The arrangements will be different for open prisons but still make sure that you know what is going on.

There may be no problem if staff can do their teaching at other times in the week. But if there are sessional staff who teach on Friday afternoons only, then they may lose their jobs. Others may not be able to teach at another time of the week and could lose hours and possibly pay.

We've had reports that one provider is thinking of asking teachers to 'supervise' students and leave the classroom doors open. If there are no uniformed staff available to ensure proper safety and security levels you must NOT accept arrangements that jeopardise your safety. Ask for a risk assessment as well and contact your regional office.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Please find out exactly what your management is doing about this and make sure that UCU is fully informed and involved in how it is handled.

- ▶ Find out from members what is going on in individual prisons
- ▶ Where you have a formal consultation/negotiating committee with your management raise the matter under the agreed procedure or otherwise just write and ask
- ▶ If there is no formal arrangements for prison education staff consult the local UCU branch and inform them of the problem and ask them to take it up with management
- ▶ Contact your main branch and regional office for advice and assistance and make sure you pass on any information you get.
- ▶ Once you have the information make sure you liaise with your regional office or main branch
- ▶ Make sure members know that they don't accept any changes unless UCU is satisfied with the arrangements
- ▶ Keep UCU informed – send any information or questions to Christiane Ohsan at cohsan@ucu.org.uk

Your local contact is: