

**Children, Young People,  
Education and Skills**



19-21 Broad Street | St Helier  
Jersey | JE2 3RR

Sent by email:

17 June 2019

Dear Mr

**Response to email “withholding school fees due to recent strikes”**

Thank you for your email dated 11 June 2019.

First, please let me apologise for the unwelcome position you have been placed in by the combined impact of the industrial action taken by the two main teaching unions.

I fully appreciate your concerns, which is why I am pleased to advise that the States Employment Board has made a further proposal to end the dispute with the two teaching unions, NASUWT and NEU, following months of difficult negotiations. Members of the National Education Union have already voted in favour of accepting the government's final pay offer and the union has halted industrial action.

This proposal provides teachers with the additional 0.8% increase to consolidated pay that their unions sought, but funded through identified reforms and sustainable efficiencies, thereby keeping the overall cost of the pay offer within the limits agreed by the States Employment Board.

I am pleased that the two teaching unions have considered the interests of our children, as well as recognising the value of teachers, in finalising this proposed pay agreement from the States Employment Board.

With regards to addressing your questions, the Government of Jersey's position is that, while sympathetic, it will not be offering financial compensation to parents and carers for the impact of the strike by teachers, whether this is for additional childcare costs, loss of earnings or holidays, or to issuing rebates in respect of school fees at fee-paying schools.

To set out the statutory position, the Education (Jersey) Law 1999 provides for the Governing Bodies of fee paying provided schools to set fees (subject to the approval of the Minister) for the provision of education in each of those schools. Such schools also receive funding from the Government of Jersey. The combined fees and funding are used to cover the costs of running the school. In the case of fee paying provided schools, fees are calculated and levied on a per term basis. The number of days on which a fee paying provided school is open varies from term to term and may be affected by a number of factors (for example, industrial action, adverse weather conditions and inset days).

We appreciate that several parents have proposed making a deduction to reflect the number of days on which a fee-paying provided school is open.

I would make three points:

- Firstly, should the matter be tested the parallels with the English statutory position with respect to rebates in respect of university tuition are not replicated in Jersey
- Secondly, any deduction that is made to fee income to the fee paying provided schools will result in a deficit to fee income which may need to be recovered by additional increases to termly fees
- Thirdly, any deduction to school fees will continue to show as unpaid fees on the relevant accounting ledger and may result in measures by Treasury & Exchequer to recover the debt and/or referral to the School (in the same manner as an overdue account due to non-payment).

I entirely appreciate the concerns which you are expressing, and the unfairness to parents of a situation, which is patently not of their making.

I am hopeful that the differences between the States Employment Board and the NASUWT can be resolved, to prevent further disruption and inconvenience to pupils and parents.

Yours sincerely,



Director General

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