

PE1603/A

Dundee City Council Letter of 22 September 2016

1. Guidance is provided on how visits to schools by the armed forces should be conducted so that information presented to children takes account of the unique nature of armed forces careers, ensures political balance, and offers a realistic representation of the role of the armed forces and what a career in the armed forces involves.

Schools are very careful with all visitors who present to young people to ensure that information provided and any views put forward are balanced, politically neutral and accurate. It is important that the armed forces, along with all career areas, including those careers where there may be philosophical, or moral dimensions have access to schools, so pupils are properly informed about career choices that exist. Pupils require this information. If the view that the armed forces require separate guidelines for school interaction then this logically would require an extension to other areas as well. It is our view that this additional guidance is not required.

2. Information is collected to enable public monitoring of the number and location of visits, the purpose and content of visits, and comparison with the number of visits by other employers.

There is limited involvement from armed forces in schools in Dundee. However the involvement is rarely career specific.

Armed forces have been involved in some of the following activities in the past:

- Visits from Army Bands to Music Departments for joint work
- Use of Armed Forces personnel for team building and outdoor activities

Collection of data as suggested here will add to an already extensive existing workload for schools and is overly bureaucratic and unnecessary.

3. Parents/guardians are consulted as to whether they are happy for their child to take part in armed forces activities at school.

Schools always keep parents informed of activities that are going on in school. Where a family has a strong view that their child should not be involved in any activity that involves the armed forces then this would be taken account of by schools under present arrangements. However many of the activities that take place in relation to careers are with the 16+ age group and in these cases it is the young person that would make this decision, not the parents.