



**To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Secondary,
Community and Comprehensive Schools
and
the Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards**

Senior Cycle Redevelopment (SCR) Implementation Support Measures

Interim amendment to the operation of the whole school component of the Croke Park Hours (CPH) for teachers in the Post-Primary Sector

Introduction

1. The Minister for Education and Youth wishes to inform managerial authorities and post-primary teachers of an interim amendment to the operation of the whole school component of the Croke Park Hours (CPH) for teachers in the Post Primary Sector.
2. It is acknowledged that the successful realisation of Senior Cycle Redevelopment requires significant engagement from teachers.
3. The Senior Cycle Redevelopment Agreement (the Agreement) contains a package of measures designed to support the implementation of the Senior Cycle Redevelopment programme in schools and the related curriculum development, assessment and teacher professional learning processes.
4. One such measure is the reconfiguration, on an interim basis pending a review currently being undertaken under the auspices of the Teachers' Conciliation Council (TCC), of the operation of the whole school component of the CPH arrangements as applicable to teachers in the Post Primary sector.

Amendment to the operation of the Croke Park Hours

5. Where a Union has accepted the terms of the Agreement there will be a rebalancing of the whole school hours, by allocating
 - 19 hours for whole-school commitments (e.g. school planning days, open night, etc.) as provided for in [Circular 0025/2011](#) and
 - 14 hours for teacher led activities to be carried out on a non-whole school, high trust basis.

Provisions of previous circulars will continue to apply.

6. This interim arrangement will apply for an initial period of 3 years (commencing in school year 2025/26) and will, following a review, be extendable for a further 2 years at the discretion of the Department.
7. Where the rebalancing of whole school hours will not be applicable by virtue of non-acceptance by a Union of the Agreement in regard to the teachers represented by that Union, the current configurations of the Croke Hours shall continue to apply to members of that union i.e. CL45/2016 and 48/2017 will continue to apply to those teachers.
8. As the Agreement has been accepted by members of the TUI, those teachers are entitled to the benefits set out at paragraph 5 above.
9. The position of ASTI members by virtue of their rejection of the Agreement is that they are required to continue to fulfil their CPH obligations in line with currently applicable Circulars.
10. Provision must also be made for teachers who are not members of either Union.
11. Accordingly, to ensure that school management is aware of whether this Circular (CL0068/2025) or the previously applicable Circulars (including CL0045/2016 and CL0048/2017) shall apply to a particular teacher as regards their CPH obligations, it is necessary that all teachers in all schools complete the Declaration Form at Appendix 1.
12. Under Data Protection legislation, the Department of Education and Youth/Education and Training Boards cannot routinely use information held on the payroll systems in regard to an individual teacher's trade union membership or non-membership of either as the case may be, for the purposes of establishing whether an individual teacher may benefit from the revision to CPH as set out at paragraph 5 above. Therefore, the Declaration Form at Appendix 1 seeks the consent of the person making the declaration to verify the declaration made against payroll data if or where necessary. Where verification has been conducted, the data received by the Department or ETB Payroll Units as the case may be will not be retained for any other purpose or processed.
13. As members of the ASTI or TUI are bound by their respective ballot results on the Agreement, TUI members may only make a declaration under (i) at Appendix 1 and ASTI members may only make a declaration under (ii) at Appendix 1.
14. Each teacher employed in a school is requested to return a completed declaration as per Appendix 1 to their school principal by October 7, 2025. Where no declaration is received by that date, the pre-existing arrangements in respect of CPH shall apply to that teacher. Where a teacher opts to cease their membership of either the ASTI or TUI; or where a teacher not currently a member of either joins either Union; all such changes of status will require the completion of a new Declaration in accordance with Appendix 1. Any teacher newly employed in a school after 7th October must complete the Declaration within 2 weeks of commencing employment with the school.

15. It is imperative that the application of the amendment to the operation of the CPH is entirely conditional upon adherence to its terms by the teachers to whom it is applied.
16. The interim configuration arrangements set out in the Agreement and this Circular do not pre-empt longer term configurations that may be agreed upon the conclusion of the review of CPH currently underway under the auspices of the TCC.

Use of Non-whole School Croke Park Hours

17. The 14 non-whole school hours of teacher-led activities can include, but not be limited to, time to directly support the implementation of SCR. These hours will be used on a non-whole school, high trust basis.
18. The hours will be pro-rata for part-time teachers.
19. This time will include collaborative activities and co-operation amongst teachers and will be used, amongst other things, to support:
 - Subject department planning and curriculum design
 - Development of new learning resources
 - Participation in additional Continuing Professional Development (CPD)/ Teacher Professional Learning (TPL), including that related to SCR.
 - Work related to embedding formative assessment practices
20. Without prejudice to the ongoing review of CPH (at the TCC), this interim measure involving the reconfiguration of CPH shall apply from the commencement of the 2025/26 school year.
21. This interim measure is non-prejudicial to the existing TCC review of the usage of CPH and any resulting permanent structure which may be agreed through that review.

Circulation and Queries

22. Please ensure that copies of this Circular are provided to all members of the Board of Management/Education and Training Board and its contents are brought to the attention of all post-primary teachers in your employment including those on leave of absence.
23. This Circular can be accessed on the Department's website under <https://www.gov.ie/en/circulars/>
24. Enquiries regarding this Circular should be e-mailed to ESR@education.gov.ie

Caoimhe Allman
Principal Officer
External Staff Relations
25 September 2025

APPENDIX 1 - TEACHER DECLARATION FORM - CIRCULAR 0068/2025

To be completed by all teachers employed in all schools to whom CPH obligations apply

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| Teacher Name: (enter name here) | |
| | In the space provided below, please indicate clearly which declaration you are making; i.e. either (i) or (ii). Indicate your preference by writing Yes in the relevant category |
| (i) I confirm that I am a member of the TUI or neither a member of the TUI or ASTI ; and I hereby confirm my entitlement to have the CPH obligations at paragraph 5 of CL0068/2025 applied to me. I also consent to the data provided below being shared with the Department of Education and Youth\or my employer Education and Training Board for the purpose of verifying this declaration; and that data relating to my union affiliation in the payroll systems of the Department of Education and Youth or my employer Education and Training Board being used for the purposes of verifying my entitlement at paragraph 5 of CL0068/2025 | |
| (ii) I confirm that I am a member of the ASTI or neither a member of the TUI or ASTI ; and I hereby confirm my entitlement to continue to satisfy the CPH obligations applicable to me under CL0045/2016 and CL0048/2017. I also consent to the data provided below being shared with the Department of Education and Youth\or my employer Education and Training Board for the purpose of verifying this declaration; and that data relating to my union affiliation in the payroll systems of the Department of Education and Youth or my employer Education and Training Board being used for the purposes of verifying my entitlement to satisfy the CPH obligations applicable to me under CL0045/2016 and CL0048/2017. | |
| Only for the purpose of facilitating the verification of the declaration made above please provide the following additional data: | |
| Teacher Payroll Number (not Teaching Council registration number) | |
| PPSN | |

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS DECLARATION TO YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL BY 7th October 2025 OR WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF COMMENCING EMPLOYMENT IF LATER THAN 7TH OCTOBER 2025. PLEASE RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS.