



PUBLIC COMMENT

Human Resource Manual Section 8.6 “Public Comment” issued 1 April 1997

Note:

This Policy replaces Circular No 37 of 1990 and No 24 of 1991

The confidence and integrity of the Authority should be maintained at all times and consequently public comment to the media or the general public concerning the organisation, its policies and activities will be made by authorised personnel only.

Authorised personnel will be designated as such by the Authority Chairperson. Staff authorised to provide public comment are:

- Chief Executive Officer, Department of Education Services
- Director, Office of Country High School Hostels Authority
- Residential College Chairpersons and Managers.

Public comment is to be accurate and factual.

Authorised personnel should not undermine public confidence in either the Authority or the Government of the day and therefore should:

- Not give their personal view on matters of Government policy or college administration;
- Not speculate on future policy directives;
- Not publicly criticise any political party, its actions or its policies;
- Not prolong discussion or debate on an issue once a decision has been made or a policy adopted.

Authorised staff should use their discretion when dealing with public comment. Where staff are asked to respond to negative press or criticism of the Authority, they should seek advice from the Authority before commenting publicly to the media or the general public.