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D/VCDS/5/1/3

07 Dec 09

TLB Holders

Copy to:

Navy Command Sec  
Land Command Sec  
Air Command Sec

**OVERSEAS TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS & APPLICATION TO ARMED FORCES WINTER SPORTS**

Reference:

A. PUS/CDS Letter to all staff dated 20 Nov 09 (Departmental Financial Position).

1. In light of the Reference and acknowledging the current financial climate, COS discussed the issue of winter sports and agreed that more clarity on the issue of funding winter sports at public expense was required. COS were clear that sport in the Armed Forces makes a vital contribution to fighting spirit, morale, personal development and, therefore, operational effectiveness. This applies equally to winter sports as it does to other sports. However, our current financial circumstances demand that there is greater restraint financially across the whole of Defence in anything that is not directly on the Main Effort and operationally imperative. In judging how this applies to winter sports, COS agreed:

a. Public funding of winter sports for competitors and officials was appropriate on the basis of travel (limited to £175 per person), CILOR (in the region of £10 per day), and subsistence allowance for some key safety officials.

b. It was in the area of (senior) visitors that more restraint should be applied, both for reasons of financial propriety and presentation. In this regard, the emphasis should be on acknowledgement of the Department's financial position. Although not wishing to give detailed instructions, COS expect significant restraint in the use of public funds such that they are only used by exception, to meet the needs of essential senior leadership support and in order to meet those specific sponsor expectations which enable current sponsorship commitments.

2. It is hoped that this is sufficient guidance to enable TLBs to make appropriate judgements and where additional advice is required Command Secretaries should liaise with my and 2ndPUS's office.

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