



## CIRCULAR

Ref: DG DES 28/2024

From: Ritianne Borg Saliba, Director General Educational Services

To: Permanent Secretary  
Directors General / Chief Information Officers  
Heads / Directors / Assistant Directors  
Heads of College Network  
Heads of All State Schools  
Education Officers / Heads of Department

Subject: Policy on the Participation of Educators in Media Appearances in Their Professional Capacity

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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### Objective

This policy outlines the guidelines and procedures for educators (all grades) regarding their participation and appearances in media, including television, radio, blogs or newspaper articles, when participating as public service employees within schools in Malta and Gozo. The participation and contribution of educators to the public debate are encouraged. Establishing guidelines will ensure that while the debate on educational matters is healthy, this is done without compromising the system's integrity.

### Definition

For the purpose of this policy, '*educators*' refers to all educators within the educational system, including teachers, SLT members, Heads of Schools and the Head of College Network (HCN).

### Media Appearances

This policy refers to educators participating in media appearances (TV, radio, newspapers, vblog, podcast or online publications) provided that the subject matter is directly related to the national curriculum, pedagogy methods, policies, specific initiatives, or other topics directly linked to the educational system in Malta and Gozo.

### Approval Process

Educators wishing to participate in media appearances must seek prior approval from their line manager. The request for approval must be submitted in writing, specifying the nature of the media appearance, topics discussed, and the media house involved. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the request reaches the Director General of the Department of Educational Services (DG DES). Prior approval is in line with the PSMC, which provides

specific guidelines regarding the conduct of public officers, including their appearances in the media.<sup>1</sup>

### **Representation of the Education System**

If approval is granted, educators participating in media must adhere to a strict representation policy:

- Ensure that their comments reflect the policies, guidelines, and objectives of the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research, and Innovation (MEYR).
- Statements perceived as politically-biased or compromising the educational system's neutrality are to be avoided.

### **Media Content Guidelines**

- Educators must ensure that the content discussed in media appearances is factual, based on current data, professional, and aligns with educational priorities.
- Participation should not result in the promotion of personal opinions, political ideologies, or any content unrelated to education.

### **Conflict of Interest**

Educators must not participate in media appearances that pose a conflict of interest with their professional duties or could undermine their position as impartial and responsible educators.

### **Policy Observation**

The Head of School (HoS) and Head of College Network (HCN) should ensure adherence to this policy. Any breaches of the policy are to be referred to the DG DES for review and ensuing action.

### **Conclusion**

Educators have a role in positively representing the educational community in public forums. This policy aims to guide them in contributing to discussions on education while maintaining professional standards and safeguarding the integrity of the educational system.

**Ritianne Borg Saliba**

**Director General**

**Department for Educational Services**

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<sup>1</sup> Public officers shall not participate in any radio, television or press programme, or write in newspapers, journals, or other publications, or speak in public on matters relating to the policies, decisions or actions of the Government, unless they have obtained prior permission from their Permanent Secretary or Head of Department. In giving such permission, the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department shall ensure that the public officer will not make statements which are politically biased or controversial in nature, or that could compromise the impartiality of the public service (Public Service Management Code (PSMC) - Version 1/2022, Section 4.4, Government of Malta).