



Chief Executive Officer Each Health Board

Secretary/Manager Each Public Voluntary Hospital

Chief Officer
Each Mental Handicap & Specialist Agency



Shaping a Healthier Future

## Re: Application of Special Leave with Pay on Marriage to Non-Officer Grades

I refer to previous circulars in relation to special leave with pay on the occasion of marriage (S116/48 of 16 August, 1983). Previous circulars approved the granting of such leave to officer grades. I am directed by the Minister to now state that no objection will be raised to the extension of such leave to non-officer grades on the same basis i.e.:-

"With effect from the current leave year (1997) an employee may be allowed up to a maximum of 5 days special leave with pay on the occasion of his/her marriage provided that the amount of special leave granted for this purpose together with the annual leave allowance in respect of the leave year in which the marriage takes place does not exceed a total of 24 days, excluding any annual leave carried over from the previous year. Special leave may, however, be allowed only where the employer is satisfied that the office intends to return to duty after marriage. An employee who fails to return to duty will be liable to forfeiture of the amount paid in respect of such leave."

As costs involved will be insignificant these will be deemed to be covered within existing financial allocations.

Mise le meas.

Liz Canavan

Personnel Management & Development