

NOTICE

CALL TO ACTION – TEEU NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AXE THE TAX ON APPRENTICESHIPS

Regional Meetings - 7.30pm Thursday 23rd April 2015 Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Sligo

Dear Colleagues,

The **TEEU Axe the Tax on Apprenticeships' campaign** is entering a new phase, following a decision by the recent TEEU Biennial Delegate Conference that decided:

Unless a satisfactory resolution can be found with the Department of Education (Which has not been achieved) that employers should bear the charge being imposed on apprentices and so to this end consultative meetings are being held throughout the country to consult with our members as to what form of industrial action is most appropriate to achieve the union's objective.

The current charges can range from **€913 to €1,576 and €2,750** occurring twice during apprenticeship for both phases 4 & 6 with a further 10% late payment fee being imposed. This is a major imposition on young workers, who earn less than the minimum wage starting off. In some cases it is preventing them from completing their courses and hampering their future employability at their trade.

Current legislation provides that when the training authority provides courses, facilities or services in relation to apprenticeship training that any fee payable to the training authority in respect thereof shall be payable by, and only by, the employer.

These charges, that are due to increase again by up to 40%, fly in the face of the European wide Youth Guarantee Scheme designed to promote youth employment and are seen by all as a tax on training. No other European Country levies this tax on young workers or apprentices.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND ?

All Shop Stewards (or in their absence a representative from your workplace) accompanied by your apprentices should attend the meetings convened in your region as set out below.

WHAT FOR ?

Having discussed the most appropriate form of industrial action with your colleagues in your workplace in advance, please bring to the meeting the considered view of the members in your workplace.

Dublin	Waterford	Cork	Limerick	Galway	Sligo
TEEU Office 6 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1	TEEU Office 83 Lr. Yellow Rd, Waterford	Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Cork	TEEU Office 15 Anne St, Limerick	TEEU Office Forster Court Galway	The Embassy Kennedy Parade, Sligo

Yours fraternally


Eamon Devoy
General Secretary

Calling All Apprentices – Axe the Tax Campaign – Abolish Student Services Charge Apprentice Meetings 7pm Thursday 26th June 2014

All apprentices across the Country (regardless of what stage of apprenticeship) are called to simultaneous rallies throughout the Country, in Dublin (Regions 1 & 2), Waterford, Cork, Limerick & Galway to hear a full report on the TEEU's efforts on behalf of all Apprentices and work together on a strategy at local, industry and national level to see off this inappropriate tax on the training of apprentices.

Agenda

1. Report on the outcome of TEEU's discussions with Government on the imposition of Student Service Charges.
2. Report on the USI stance of support.
3. Draft letter of unwillingness or inability to pay explained.
4. Report on the TEEU's stance of support & strategy.
5. Next steps in a National co-ordinated campaign to Axe the Tax.

A full and punctual attendance is required, so record the football and please be there.

We look forward to meeting with you at 7pm on Thursday 26th June 2014 at the venue outlined below:

Regional Meetings	Meeting Venue
Regions 1 & 2	TEEU Head Office, 6 Gardiner Row Dublin 1.
Region 3	TEEU Regional Office, 83 Lower Yellow Road, Waterford.
Region 4	TEEU Regional Office, The Old Firehouse, 23 Sullivans Quay, Cork.
Region 5	TEEU Regional Office, 15 Anne Street, Limerick.
Region 6	TEEU Regional Office, Forster Court, Galway.

Yours fraternally


Eamon Devoy
General Secretary

16 June 2014



National Apprenticeship Campaign



AXE the TAX on TRAINING

Update Bulletin No. 7 – Apprentice Training Update

TEEU met with Department of Education & Skills, HEA & Solas representatives on Monday 7th April 2014. Proposals were presented to the TEEU that fell far short of a satisfactory resolution of the dispute about the imposition of Student Service Charges to apprentices.

The TEEU General Secretary has now travelled to Brussels to meet with European MEP Emer Costello and other colleagues to explore the possibility of funding the inappropriate application of Student Service Charges to Apprentices through the Youth Guarantee Funding Programme.

In the meantime, the TEEU has urged the Department of Education & Skills to use their good offices with the Institutes of Technology to release the exam results currently being withheld by the IT's and to stop badgering individual Apprentices by threatening and intimidating them as is the case in some IT's.

Further updates will be available shortly, so keep an eye on the TEEU
Website: www.teeu.ie

*Brian Nolan,
National Construction Official.*

*Eamon Devoy,
General Secretary.*

10th April, 2014.



National Apprenticeship Campaign



AXE the TAX on TRAINING

Update Bulletin – Apprentice Fees

The Dept. of Education & Skills sought a deferment of the meeting scheduled for the 24th March in order to develop a considered response to the TEEU claim for the abolition of the Student Services Charge to Apprentices.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place at the Dept. of Education & Skills next Monday 7th April 2014.

The Higher Education Authority and Solas representatives will also be in attendance.

We will advise you of the outcome as soon as possible thereafter.

Brian Nolan,
National Construction Official.

Eamon Devoy,
General Secretary.

April 2014

TEEU Update Bulletin March 14th 2014

Talks Progress between Department of Education and TEEU over Student Service Charges imposed on Apprentices

Following the meeting with Minister Quinn, Department of Education and Skills on the 4th March 2014, a meeting was scheduled for 11th March between the DES and TEEU to work toward a resolution of the current dispute. This meeting was deferred until today, Friday 14 March to facilitate the attendance of representatives from the Higher Education Authority and Solas.

The meeting was held in TEEU Head Quarters this afternoon and the following issues were discussed:

- Inability to Pay Provisions for Apprentices.
- Potential funding from Youth Guarantee Fund
- The on-going Non-Payment of Student Service Charge by Apprentices

A further meeting is scheduled in the Dept. of Education and Skills on 24th March to progress matters and in the meantime there are no immediate implications for apprentices for non-payment. However, exam results when processed may not be released pending a resolution of the dispute.

Please bring this notice to the attention of your colleagues.

Eamon Devoy,
General Secretary

Brian Nolan
National Construction Official

Join online: www.TEEU.ie

Talks begin between Department of Education and TEEU over Student Service Charges imposed on Apprentices

The Department of Education and Skills is to enter talks with the Technical Engineering and Electrical Union (TEEU) commencing next Tuesday 11th March to resolve the current dispute over charging apprentices for student services at third level colleges. This follows a meeting between TEEU General Secretary Eamon Devoy and the Minister Ruairi Quinn. Dublin MEP Emer Costello also attended the meeting after making representations to the Minister on behalf of apprentices along with Brian Nolan, the TEEU National Construction Official.

After the meeting Mr Devoy said he was “hopeful that the anomaly can be removed whereby apprentices can be charged fees of over €1,400 a year for student services they cannot avail of, while at the same time they are being denied access to various grants that students receive. We have agreed to hold a series of meetings with the Department to find a solution to the problem.”

He said the union appreciated the Minister’s positive approach to the issue but it was still recommending to apprentices that they do not pay the charges while discussions continue. He added that the Minister would make himself available for further involvement in the discussions if required.

Labour MEP Emer Costello said she was “pleased that I was able to facilitate the TEEU in meeting with Ruairi Quinn this afternoon. This is an important issue for the young people involved. I am glad progress was made at today’s meeting and I will continue to work with the Minister and the TEEU in finding a satisfactory outcome to this dispute.”

Some apprentices have been told they will not receive their exam results until outstanding fees are paid. Others have been told they must pay an additional late fee of €100.00. However, to date the vast majority of apprentices have not paid because they are supporting the TEEU Campaign against Student Service Charges being imposed on apprentices who simply cannot afford the charges in any event.

After today’s meeting the TEEU representatives were satisfied that there is a will on the part of the Minister and the Department of Education Officials to find an acceptable solution to the current dispute and in the meantime apprentices should stand firm in opposition to the charges as at the end of the day no one involved wishes to see any apprentice disadvantaged.

Eamon Devoy
General Secretary

Brian Nolan
National Construction Official

National Apprenticeship Campaign Against the Imposition of Student Service Charges

▶ Apprentices Meeting 26th June 2014 Axe the Tax Campaign - Abolish Student Service Charges.

- The Department of Education has imposed a minimum fee of €833 (up to €1,433) on all Apprentices while attending Institutes of Technology for their periods of off-the-job training on Phases 4 and 6.
- Apprentices, who are full time employees, and not Students, are amongst the lowest paid Workers in Ireland.
- This happened once before in 2004 when a successful campaign run by the TEEU managed to overturn a similar imposition by the Department, when the Student Services Charge was abolished for Apprenticeships.
- A similar outcome can only be achieved if Apprentices make a stand once more and therefore it is crucial that you commit to fighting this fee alongside your Union immediately.

The TEEU Views these fees as a TAX on the training of young vulnerable workers that must be resisted.

- Over the last month the TEEU held apprentice meetings throughout the Country, the overwhelming response has been that these fees are: unfair, unaffordable and must be resisted.
- TEEU and Apprentices have lobbied T.D.s and Councillors to end this unjust Tax on Training.
- Alliances have been established with various Student and Youth groups who support our efforts.
- Ruairi Quinn TD, Minister for Education & Skills, has so far refused to meet with the TEEU to discuss his justification for this decision.
- In 2004 the TEEU fought the Department of Education on behalf of Apprentices and we succeeded in winning that battle and the fees were abolished at the time.
- The TEEU intend to meet with Apprentices in the I.T.s during the January Phase 4 & 6 and we are calling on all Apprentices to make every effort to delay paying the fees until such time as these meetings take place.
- For more details logon to www.teeu.ie or send you name, mobile phone number and email address to construction@teeu.ie.
- Apprentices who are not currently TEEU members are being encouraged to join and engage in the campaign so that your interests are represented on this important matter.
- The TEEU offers a unique free service to all apprentices throughout their full period of Apprenticeship, for advice or assistance on matters relating to your apprenticeship.

Join online at www.teeu.ie. Apprentices are entitled to FREE TEEU Membership.

Campaign Hotline: 01 8719903



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL APPRENTICES



In the recent Budget the Government announced plans to impose “**Registration Fees**” on all Apprentices for the times they spend in the Institutes of Technology. These fees will start at approximately €540 and will increase, depending on the Apprenticeship and the time spent attending at the Institutes during their off the job training on Phases 4 and 6.

This “**Registration Fee**” will be a major expense to apprentices (who are already amongst the lowest paid Workers in Ireland) and they are in addition to the costly exam fees which they already have to pay.

**This Union sees this as an attack on our members
THAT MUST BE RESISTED.**

In 2004, the Union fought the Department of Education on this matter and we succeeded in winning that battle and the fees were abolished at the time. We aim with your help to achieve the same results this time.

The Union is now calling on all Apprentices to attend at Regional Meetings in their area, which are being organised to co-ordinate a plan of action on a National scale against these fees. “Details of Meetings are listed below and all apprentices are being urged to attend.

Dublin	Wednesday 4th December at 7.00 p.m. TEEU Head Office, 6, Gardiner Row, Dublin 1.
Limerick	Tuesday 10th December 6.00 p.m. TEEU Offices, 15, Anne Street, Limerick.
North West Region	Thursday 5th December 7.30 p.m. TEEU Regional Office, Forster Court, Galway. Tuesday 26th November 6.30 p.m. The Embassy Hotel, Sligo.
South Eastern Region	Wednesday 27th November, 8.00 p.m. TEEU, 83, Lower Yellow Road Waterford.
South West	Monday 9th December 8.00 p.m. Silversprings Hotel, Tivoli, Cork.

For more details log on to www.teeu.ie or send your name, mobile phone number and email address to construction@teeu.ie

Apprentices who are non members are being encouraged to join us and get on board for this campaign so that their interests are represented on this important matter.

**REMEMBER THIS IS YOUR FUTURE.
It's time for Apprentices and their Union to take a stand.**