



Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1RN Telephone: 020 8906 2211

SSQ:SSR February 5, 2016

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Re: Attending Pioneer Service School Abroad

Dear Brothers:

Each year there are many regular pioneers who request to attend a Pioneer Service School abroad. We would like to provide the following guidance for processing such requests.

A pioneer can attend a Pioneer School in another country **only** if they have been invited to attend a class in Britain. The pioneer may then request to attend a Pioneer School in another language. If this request is made, the *Congregation Service Committee* must write to the Theocratic Schools Desk, providing the following information:

- The pioneer's **full name** and **pioneer identification number**
- The pioneer's **contact details**, such as telephone number and email address
- State the **preferred language** of the class, as requested by the pioneer
- Clearly confirm whether the pioneer requests **accommodation** for the duration of the school or whether personal arrangements will be made
- Specifically state the pioneer's **preferred location for the class**

If approved by the branch office, this request will be submitted to the branch office which is hosting the Pioneer School in the preferred language. It may be that pioneers cannot attend a class in the country of their choice. In this case, an alternative option will be offered if possible. The British branch office will then write to you to provide details of the class dates and venue.

Please note: All arrangements should be made between the respective branch offices. Please do not write to another branch office directly or encourage the pioneer to contact a circuit overseer who may be instructing at a class in another country. Pioneers should not assume that it is possible for them to attend. They should not make any transport arrangements until their class invitation is confirmed.

It is not uncommon for pioneers to obtain approval to attend a Pioneer School abroad, only to discover that they are unable to attend. While unforeseen circumstances cannot always be avoided, much time can be saved if pioneers give **advanced careful thought** to any request made to attend the Pioneer School abroad. Therefore, before writing to us, please discuss the following reminders with the pioneers:

- Are they certain that they can have the time off from their secular employment?
- Do the requested school dates coincide with any other theocratic event?
- Do the pioneers have a valid travel visa and a valid passport?
- Do any health or family situations pose a challenge to their attending a class abroad?

- Can they afford the financial cost of travelling to the country?
- If a pioneer has special needs, have matters been considered practically and realistically?
- Do the pioneers *really* want to attend a school in another country?

Once you are convinced that a pioneer is sincere in the desire to attend the Pioneer Service School abroad, please submit the request in writing to the Theocratic Schools Desk. Giving careful consideration to the above-mentioned points, *prior to writing to the Britain branch office*, will be beneficial for all.

If you have any questions in this regard, please write to the Theocratic Schools Desk in the Service Department. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter, and take this opportunity to send you our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,
*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

PS to the Secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation's file with other correspondence related to pioneers. It replaces the letter to all bodies of elders in Britain and Ireland dated SDH:SSM March 08, 2012, which should be removed from the file and destroyed.

c: Circuit overseers