

CABFILE

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- 2 APR 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 January 2019. I have taken good note and explored the range of issues that you raised, some of which are more specific to those who are in and around GAbounet39eneva (parking and badges) while others apply to the broader global retiree community (Intranet access, inputs to the Centenary celebration).

First of all, let me reassure you that there is no desire to exclude the retiree community – here in Geneva and around the world - from access to services, facilities or information and knowledge resources.

The reality of our present circumstances is that we must operate differently, more efficiently and securely while striving to meet shared objectives. This implies change in ways of doing things for both serving staff and retirees.

In terms of physical access to the building in Geneva, retirees remain very welcome and access is open. The badges established in 2016 do not put retirees at any disadvantage nor do they intend to convey any message: neither of “right” nor “favour”. Retirees’ badges show both the overall category “Courtesy” and sub category “Retiree”. Defined sub categories were introduced under broader categories as part of the process of improving the management of the access control system while also bringing the ILO in line with other UN agencies. “Courtesy” has no exclusionary intention and this category of badges covers not only retirees but also eligible dependents of serving staff. I trust that no retiree has been denied access to the building. Valid “Courtesy” badges also provide full access to the Palais des Nations.

You have also raised concerns about access of retirees to the car park on a short and long-term basis. It has become necessary to improve the management and security of the ILO car parks. Improved space management is also required in the context of an anticipated sharp rise in the rental of car parking spaces in the near future when renovated office space is let to outside tenants apart from the rental of parking spaces alone. We are compelled to lease office space in order to repay the loan for the building renovation in the absence of adequate

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provisions in the past. With respect to day visits, the IGDS to which you refer, does set certain parameters for visitors' parking, but there is flexibility and the cars of retirees who wish to remain on the premises after 1700 will certainly not be removed. If retirees have had specific problems if they stayed beyond 1700 do let us know and we can work out issues that might have led to such incidents. However, it will no longer be possible to accommodate longer-term parking during the travel of retirees.

Cost and security considerations, not exclusionary intent, are paramount considerations with respect to open on line access to the Intranet for retirees. I believe that INFOTEC has already explained that there are significant cost implications of such open access while security considerations also have to be factored in. As you may know, a number of ILO retirees who are under ILO contract, have access to email, the intranet, LABORDOC and other ILO resources. Those who are in Geneva and physically come to the ILO Library are able to access all internal research materials and publications. Also, in order to respond to the desire of retirees for information located on the Intranet, two former colleagues have full access and can share content they judge to be of interest to the retiree community.

However, should this not be sufficient, I understand that INFOTEC also advised its interlocutors some time ago that the Office is willing to explore the development of a secure dedicated website for retirees that could be managed in a cost efficient way if the retiree community could determine its key areas of interest, including for example, access to on-line library resources. To date there has been no response. Should you wish to pursue this do let us know.

We were pleased to welcome members of the retiree community to the launch of the centenary in January. As you know, the focus of the activities is very much on the future of work. We have sought to make this a constituent-driven exercise – starting with national dialogues to determine the issues that are of greatest concern to them, followed by the work of the Global Commission and the review of the Report of the Global Commission through national processes. In June, constituents will give guidance on how they wish us to move forward and this will shape the Programme and Budget 2020-21 to be approved by the Governing Body in November. If you and other members of the retiree community have ideas on how you might contribute to the ILO's response we will be pleased to receive them. From the historical perspective, there will be two official publications.

We will aim to keep the community of retirees informed in advance of developments as far as possible.

Once again let me reiterate that ILO retirees who have adhered to and promoted the values and principles of the Organization are greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Guy Ryder