

IMMEDIATE

9 June 2004

Demise of the DfES Standards and Effectiveness Unit

Commenting on the demise of the DfES Standards and Effectiveness Unit **Chris Keates** Acting General Secretary of NASUWT (the teachers' union representing 223, 500 serving teachers), said:

"I have never been convinced that anything really worthwhile emanated from the Unit.

"Its grip on the reality of what was happening in schools was always tenuous and many of the strategies emanating from it were viewed by teachers as a major contributory factor to excessive workload and bureaucracy.

"However, I would be concerned if as a result of the decision to disband the Unit the many hardworking and talented staff in the SEU were lost to the service.

"A refocusing of policy objectives should not result in compulsory job loss and NASUWT wholeheartedly supports the civil service unions in their campaign to protect their members' jobs."

...ENDS...

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