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NASUWT condemns proposed 'outsourcing' of GTC England's regulatory function

Commenting on proposals by the General Teaching Council (England) to commission persons other than Council members to discharge the Council's regulatory functions on discipline and competence, **Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT**, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK, said:

"NASUWT believes that the only valuable role the GTC performs is its regulatory function. It is this core activity which has the potential to enhance the professional status of teachers by maintaining high standards of professional conduct.

"It is astonishing that the GTC should put forward proposals to delegate its core function to non-council members.

"The rationale behind this move is apparently that the demands on Council members' time in the future may mean that they have insufficient capacity to discharge their regulatory responsibilities.

"If Council members do not have time to attend hearings it is because they are diverted into a whole raft of policy activities which are nothing to do with their core function.

"NASUWT has maintained consistently since its inception that the GTC spends far too much time on activities such as continuing professional development, teaching methodology and pupil assessment. These issues are already covered effectively by the DfES, the TTA and other organisations.

"Some Council members use the GTC as a Trojan horse through which to pursue their own personal agendas and concerns about education policy and pay and conditions of service.

"Curtailing these activities is the answer to building the capacity to participate in hearings not 'outsourcing' the responsibility to others with the potential to increase the annual fee to pay for it.

"Many teachers have still to be convinced that the GTC serves any useful purpose. This latest development is likely to increase scepticism and hostility."