

**IMMEDIATE**

Thursday 16 December 2004

**NEW EDUCATION SECRETARY**

Commenting on the departure of Charles Clarke and David Miliband and the appointment of Ruth Kelly as Education Secretary, **Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT**, the largest union representing teachers throughout the UK, said:

"Frank, robust and determined but always approachable, it was a pleasure to work with Charles Clarke.

"He has been an impressive Education Secretary and I have no doubt he will do an equally effective job in the Home Office.

"No-one who comes into contact with David Miliband can fail to be impressed by his mastery of his brief, his grasp of detail and his willingness to respond positively to cogent argument.

"It was evident such a talented Minister was destined to move on.

"Ruth Kelly is an unknown quantity as far as education is concerned. However, she comes with a reputation for having a sharp intellect and a willingness to listen. I warmly welcome her appointment and look forward to working with her in the context of the social partnership which is delivering such significant benefits to pupils, teachers and the education service."