

IMMEDIATE

Friday 1 October 2004

NASUWT CALLS FOR SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE EDUCATION SERVICE

Reacting to the news that the DfES has entered into a new strategic partnership with CAPITA for the delivery of the Government's Primary and Key Stage 3 Strategy, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT, the largest union representing teachers throughout the UK, said:

"This is extremely disappointing news.

"Despite the dismal record of failure of private companies in delivering and managing education services and strategies, regrettably the Government still turns to them on a regular basis.

"It is of particular concern that these strategies are being outsourced at a time when thousands of civil servants in the DfES are at risk of losing their jobs.

"CAPITA's record of involvement in the education service is at best uninspiring.

"They are not referred to by Private Eye Magazine as 'CRAPITA' for nothing.

"I believe the time has come for the House of Commons Education and Skills Select Committee to conduct a thorough inquiry into the role of the private sector in education, including a rigorous assessment of value for money, efficiency and effectiveness."

ENDS

Press office: 020 7420 9670

Chris Keates Acting GS
Jerry Bartlett Acting DGS

Office: 0121 453 6150 Home: 0121 475 4016 Mobile: 07966 202403
Office: 0121 453 6150 Home: 01562 742498 Mobile: 07966 202407

National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers