

IMMEDIATE

Tuesday 22 February 2005

NASUWT'S RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW BODY'S 14TH REPORT

Commenting on the publication of the School Teachers' Review Body's 14th Report and the Secretary of State's response to its recommendations, **Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT**, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK, said:

"Months of detailed work went into formulating the joint evidence submitted by NASUWT, other unions, the DfES and the National Employers for consideration by the Review Body. It is gratifying to note that in large part the Review Body has recommended its acceptance.

"The structure recommended in the Report will introduce a pay system which at long last rewards teachers for their skill and expertise in teaching and leading teaching and learning.

"These developments are a natural consequence to the recent changes to the teacher's contract and are a further crucial step in enhancing and recognising the professional status of teachers.

"Teachers now have a clear choice of career pathways, all of which lead to higher salaries.

"The introduction of national criteria for the award of the teaching and learning responsibility payments combined with the statutory requirement for all schools to have a pay policy and to publish a staffing structure will bring long-overdue clarity, transparency and fairness to pay decisions which in too many cases have been inconsistent, unfair and shrouded in mystery.

"Mandatory safeguarding will replace the inconsistent and inequitable current discretionary provisions.

"The deferment of consideration of local pay in favour of maintaining a national pay framework which allows sufficient flexibility to meet local needs will be welcomed by teachers and headteachers.

"NASUWT and the other unions which produced the joint evidence are committed to ensuring that schools, headteachers and teachers are provided with detailed advice and all necessary support to assist in the transition to the new system."

ENDS

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