

Announcing the death of **Eamonn O'Kane**, General Secretary of NASUWT, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT, said:

"All of Eamonn's friends and colleagues in NASUWT and in the wider trade union movement are deeply distressed by his death.

"He faced his illness and the knowledge that it was terminal with the equanimity, courage and fortitude that had been the hallmarks of his life and work.

"His contribution to NASUWT and the education service has been outstanding. In the tragically short time he was General Secretary he was instrumental in securing the most significant improvements in pay and conditions of service that teachers have received for almost 20 years.

"His devastating loss is felt by us all but our thoughts and concern must be for his beloved wife and family at this time."

**END**

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**Notes to Editors:**

1. Eamonn was born in Northern Ireland. He was educated at St Malachy's College, Belfast, Queens' University, Belfast and University College of South Wales.
2. He taught for 20 years in Belfast secondary and grammar schools. He was active in the Belfast Association of NASUWT and was instrumental in securing NASUWT position as the largest teachers' union in Northern Ireland.
3. Eamonn was the Northern Ireland representative on NASUWT's National Executive. He served for many years as the Chair of the National Salaries and Conditions of Service Committee. Eamonn was National President of NASUWT from 1987-88.
4. Eamonn had a lifelong commitment to improving the pay and conditions of service of teachers and represented NASUWT on the Burnham Committee, CLEA/ST and Teachers' Superannuation Working Party.
5. He remained chair, until his death, of the Sixth Form College NJC Teachers' Committee.

6. Eamonn served as NASUWT Deputy General Secretary from 1989 and was elected General Secretary Designate of NASUWT in April 2001 before taking the role of General Secretary in April 2002.

7. He leaves a wife, Daphne, two daughters and three grandchildren.