

IMMEDIATE
23 November 2004

**TIME TO DROP THE MANTRA OF PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM SAYS
NASUWT**

Commenting on the education-related issues in the Queen's Speech, **Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT**, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK said:

"The speech contains no surprises and no new measures for education. The proposals for school inspection, school transport, financial support for education and training and all the other measures have been published and under discussion for sometime.

"However, it is disappointing to note that after nearly two terms in office the Government is still talking about continuing to reform public services, despite having achieved so much.

"Reform has extremely negative connotations and fails to reflect either the significant improvements secured in education over the past decade or the continuing dedication, commitment and high standards of the school workforce.

"It's high time this mantra of reform was dropped and replaced with a slogan which reflects the successes achieved. 'Building on success' would send a more accurate and positive message.

"The proposed legislation will require detailed consideration and close scrutiny. In judging its merits NASUWT will take a leaf out of the Chancellor's book and apply its own five key tests.

Will it keep public services public?

Will it ensure appropriate local accountability within a national framework?

Will it protect jobs and services?

Will it maintain the gains and enhance the provisions of the Workload Agreement?

Will it sustain the highest standards and quality of education for all?"