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Ruth Kelly appoints reading czar

Commenting on the appointment of Jim Rose, retired OFSTED director of inspection, to conduct a review of the teaching of reading, Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“The outbreak of another round of the reading wars before the election had the potential to damage the enormous progress made by primary schools in the teaching of literacy.

“The Commons Select Committee report on the teaching of reading ended up as a game of ping pong between the political parties because of the general election. It should have been the subject of mature reflection and debate.

“The Government’s decision to appoint someone of Jim Rose’s experience and expertise is very welcome. I would expect him not to be influenced by attempts to politicize the debate on reading but to concentrate on what works, to consult teachers and respect their professionalism.”

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NOTE: Jim Rose was one of the “Three Wise Men” appointed by John Major to investigate achievement in primary schools in the early 1990s.

For further information contact: Olive Forsythe tel: 020 7380 4706 (office) 020 8313 1692 (weekday evenings) or if all else fails 07879 480061.