

IMMEDIATE
25 April 2005

NASUWT BOYCOTTS GTC ENGLAND ELECTIONS

Nominations close today for the post of Chairperson of the General Teaching Council in England.

Announcing that NASUWT nominees and supported candidates on the Council have been instructed neither to nominate nor offer support for candidates for the post of Chairperson and if there is a election, not to vote, **Chris Keates General Secretary** of the NASUWT, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK said

"NASUWT has had serious concerns about the activities and decision making processes of the Council since its inception, which have been confirmed by the Audit Commission' recent report.

"Instead of concentrating on its regulatory function, which has the potential to make a major contribution to raising the status of the profession, the GTC persists in engaging in a whole range of activities most of which either duplicate the work of other bodies, including the TTA and DfES or are not it's business.

"Unless these activities are curtailed, when the DfES funding comes to an end in the financial year 06/07, the registration fee is likely to increase significantly. Internal discussions at the GTC appear to confirm this. Currently the fee is covered in the teachers' annual pay award but that will not continue indefinitely. Teachers will eventually end up footing the bill.

"NASUWT considers the current programme of activities, outside the regulatory function, cannot be considered value for money and may even in some instances constitute a misuse of public funds.

"In addition, NASUWT is concerned about decisions which are either made without the approval of the full Council or are overturned by unconstitutional groups.

"Boycotting the nomination and election process is the first stage in what will now be an ongoing NASUWT campaign to highlight the deficiencies of the Council and to seek a review of its remit.

"NASUWT members are at best indifferent to the Council and at worst completely hostile.

"In its present form it constitutes a monumental waste of public funds."