

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 October 2004

Government misses GCSE targets - again

Commenting on this year's overall GCSE results published today (21 October 2004), Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“Targets can serve a useful purpose when they are the result of wide-ranging consultation and are relevant to pupil learning and individual schools. We want to work with the Government to achieve such a system.

“The problem with these targets is that they seem to have been plucked from the air.

“It is inevitable that year on year the rate of improvement will slow down. That is exactly what has happened though it is very pleasing to see that each year more and more young people are achieving good qualifications.”

END

PR66/04

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