

IMMEDIATE

Tuesday 19 October 2004

NASUWT APPOINTS NEW GENERAL SECRETARY

Chris Keates, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT, has this morning been elected unopposed to the position of General Secretary.

Chris was the unanimously agreed nominee of NASUWT's National Executive and received the nomination of 87 NASUWT Local Associations, well over three times the number required by election rules.

Announcing the election of Chris Keates, NASUWT National President, **Pat Lerew**, said:

"I am delighted that Chris has been elected unopposed to the position of General Secretary.

"With great sadness, she has essentially carried out the work since the illness and untimely death of Eamonn O'Kane. I know this is the result Eamonn would have wanted.

"Chris is the first female General Secretary of NASUWT and a person of great ability and integrity."

Chris Keates said:

"I am extremely grateful to the Executive and many Local Associations throughout NASUWT for their support and the confidence they have shown in me.

"I am delighted to have been elected and look forward to meeting the challenges the role will inevitably bring.

"Today will, however, be tinged with sadness. I, like everyone else in NASUWT, would have wished the circumstances which led to my appointment being different."

One other potential candidate sought Local Association nominations and this candidate secured the support of three, which was insufficient to satisfy the rules of NASUWT which require candidates for election to the position of General Secretary to be nominated either by the Association's National Executive or a minimum of 25 branches.

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