

Wednesday 1 December 2004

**'OFSTED CONTINUES TO DODGE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES' SAYS
NASUWT**

Commenting on the release of the OFSTED Report '*Remodelling the School Workforce*' published today, **Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT** the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK said:

"This OFSTED Report is past its sell-by date.

"It is based on opinions gathered over twelve months ago. Since that time, considerable progress has been made by schools in meeting the contractual changes arising from the National Agreement '*Raising Standards and Tackling Workload*'.

"It is disappointing that OFSTED has applied a methodology in which the sample of schools included is not statistically valid or representative.

"It is particularly worrying that OFSTED apparently places greater emphasis on the perceptions and opinions of a few headteachers rather than on evidence collected through systematic inspection.

"However, David Bell HMCI is right to recognise that there is some way to go to ensure that all schools enjoy the benefits of workforce remodelling for their staff and pupils and that progress on implementing the National Agreement is central to the standards agenda in our schools.

"Raising educational standards has always been at the heart of the National Agreement.

"It is simply not good enough for OFSTED to continue to dodge its responsibility to support schools in raising educational standards through workforce remodelling.

"If HMCI is serious about this issue, he will have no problem accepting the NASUWT's proposals to amend the OFSTED framework to ensure inspections support schools in tackling effectively this important agenda."