

**NUT gives Tomlinson report cautious welcome**

Commenting on the publication today (Monday 18 October) of the final report from Mike Tomlinson on 14-19 education, Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“No one can doubt Mike Tomlinson’s commitment to meeting the needs of all learners. But the Government must be ruthless in responding to the trials and their evaluation. If the pilots show some proposals do not work or increase workload on teachers then changes must be made.

“Teachers have to be at the centre of determining what works and what doesn’t. It is they who have to implement the reforms.

“The Government has indicated that additional money will be set aside to cover the cost of implementation. It must match the full cost including the cost of professional development for teachers during the school day.

“You cannot penny-pinch on a major reform such as this which has enormous implications for the future of our education system.

“Professor Tomlinson’s inclusive consultation and clear vision in wanting the best for all young people must be matched by exemplary delivery.

It is wrong for the CBI to criticise Tomlinson for not focusing on the basics. Core skills are at the heart of every young person’s learning.

“Far better would be if all those with a stake in our education service worked together to ensure reform was carried through in the best interests of young people and the future of the country.

“The Conservatives back to the future attitude in wanting to introduce a quota system would mean that young people’s achievements would be artificially restricted. Young people should be rewarded for their achievements not denied qualification by artificial rationing.”

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