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NUT seeks clarification of the appointment of Government 'Inquisitor'

Doug McAvoy, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, has sought clarification from the Secretary of State on what he describes as 'a blatant attempt to extend the influence and the direction of government'.

Doug McAvoy said: "The concept results directly from an interest developed by David Blunkett when he was Secretary of State. I am writing to him also. This development is designed to ensure that schools follow to the letter the desires of government. The 'Inquisitor' has authority to monitor teaching, question students, criticise the teaching of teachers and the management abilities of members of the leadership group. The 'Inquisitor' reports directly to the Minister of State for School Standards. It is as if by magic the 'Inquisitor' can transform the effectiveness of schools.

"The first appointment has been made by the Department. He is Don Thurlot who has been appointed to Wagshort School."

E N D S

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