



TO: SECRETARY, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Our Ref: 139/590

FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

We are writing to you as Secretary to the Board of Governors and would ask that this matter be discussed at your next Board of Governors' meeting. It has been brought to our attention that undue pressure is being exerted on members of Boards of Governors to undermine staff who are not participating in School Inspections by asking them to supply information to the ETI regarding the school.

We have enclosed a letter which we sent recently to the Chief Inspector regarding the bullying tactics which she has employed recently to undermine the legitimate action of teachers who are engaged in a dispute.

We would be grateful if you would show support for your staff by refusing to comply with the ETI requests – remember, you are not employees and therefore are not answerable to the ETI. We know that the vast majority of members of Board of Governors give up their valuable personal time in order to support their school and it is a laudable way of serving your community. We also know that more and more often you are faced with making unpalatable decisions due to budget constraints.

We have been advised that schools are at present being given unacceptable reports as a result of incomplete inspections, particularly around the safeguarding of pupils. We would be grateful if you find yourself in this situation that you would let the parents know that the report does not accurately reflect the situation in your school. Where you are satisfied that safeguarding procedures are adequate you should inform parents that this is so.

Teachers take their responsibilities seriously and do not want this action to continue longer than necessary. There are, however, issues that must be addressed if harmonious working relationships are to be maintained into the future. The teacher unions on NITC., representing almost all the teachers in NI, are currently in talks with Management Side within the Teachers' Negotiating Committee to try and resolve the current situation. We would therefore ask for your assistance in making sure that the process of talks is not seriously derailed by needless ETI intervention.

Yours sincerely

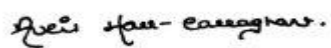
Mark Langhammer, ATL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Langhammer', with a large loop and a horizontal line at the end.

Gerry Murphy, INTO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Murphy', written in a cursive style.

Avril Hall-Callaghan, UTU

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Avril Hall-Callaghan', written in a cursive style.