



Dear Colleague

SALARY CAMPAIGN

You will no doubt have seen the publicity the NITC Unions generated last week and also at the launch of the Chief Inspector's Report yesterday. It is our intention to start the Campaign off slowly, allowing Peter Weir to reconsider his position. I have attached a letter which I have sent on behalf of UTU to the Education Minister today. **(See attachment below for letter)**

It has been good to see four out of the five unions in Northern Ireland working so closely together and we intend to continue doing so for as long as possible. The majority of parents appear to be in support of our action and key to this has been the lack of impact on their children. We realise, however, that we must increase our action in order to impact on the Minister.

The UTU CEC met on Friday past and discussed a programme of escalating action that we are intending to follow over the next couple of months. We will keep you updated as this rolls out. NITC is to meet on Monday 21st November so I will send an update out following that meeting.

In the meantime your CEC colleagues are setting up meetings with MLAs throughout the North to lobby them about the problems. It is interesting that our partners in England and Wales, the NUT, are simultaneously campaigning about Funding, Workload and Assessment!

We intend to produce template letters which you can send off to your MLAs and other local political representatives about the current situation. You can access the most recent information about our campaign on the UTU Website and Facebook page.

STRIKE ACTION

NASUWT has announced its intention to strike in the Belfast and Newtownabbey areas on 30th November. This strike will not impact on the salaries of UTU members. We would ask that you adhere to normal trade union practice in not covering any duties left undone by

your striking colleagues. If you have specific queries please do not hesitate in contacting UTU Headquarters for advice or a visit from an Official.

Yours sincerely

Avril Hall-Callaghan

GENERAL SECRETARY

Mr P Weir
Education Minister
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Rathgill
Bangor
BT19 7PR

Our Ref: 153/984

16th November 2016

Dear Minister,

SALARY DETERMINATION

I have been asked to write to you by the Central Executive Committee of the Ulster Teachers' Union, a democratically elected representative body of teachers, including Principals, representing professionals throughout Northern Ireland.

They wish me to convey to you their deep disappointment that their justifiable salary claim for a cost of living rise for 2015/16 has been rejected. They feel that they are keeping the Education Service running smoothly at a time when the cuts to the Education Budget have become increasingly severe over recent years and look set to be so in the next few years.

They feel that their contribution in ensuring that pupils' education is maintained at a high level has not been acknowledged. In addition the publishing of the Chief Inspector's Report has further eroded their position and questioned their value as professionals. The Chief Inspector has highlighted the shortcomings in the system, attributing them to a significant number of teachers, with no acknowledgment that much of the problem is more properly attributable to the lack of adequate resources to ensure that schools can run properly.

I have been asked to request that you reconsider your decision regarding the 2015/16 salary position. Teachers do not find it acceptable that your announcement that a further £7million was to be put into schools would seem to be money that you have allocated as a result of not funding a core resource - the teachers that keep schools functioning and serving their communities.

Teachers view your response to them as derisory and one which ultimately undermines the professional status and, not least, the vital role they play in shaping the lives of the pupils with whom they work. They feel that they are being taken for granted and there is a growing anger among them that you do not value the job they do.

I hope that you will give this request due consideration. Our members have not involved themselves to date in anything that has impacted on pupils and it is much more likely that this dispute can be resolved at an early stage than after teachers have suffered further disappointment.

I look forward to an early response. It is likely that the NITC will seek a meeting with you to discuss this in the near future.

Yours sincerely,
Avril Hall-Callaghan
General Secretary