



UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2018

Dear Colleague,

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Our employers had indicated that they would respond to our salary claim before Christmas. They did so in early February and the response was far from acceptable (see UTU website). They have, however, in response to a letter from the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (see UTU website), decided to negotiate on Workload and Pay in concentrated negotiations commencing on Monday 19th February. We have requested an independent chairperson to assist with the negotiations.

We would like to thank you for your efforts to date which have resulted in this development. The Central Executive Committee of the Ulster Teachers' Union met on Friday last and decided that our Industrial Action is **TO CONTINUE UNALTERED** in the meantime. You can find a copy of the UTU advice on Action on the UTU website at www.utu.edu or if you have specific questions please phone 9066 2166 and ask to speak to an Official. If you are notified of an Inspection in your school then a UTU Official can come to the school for support on the morning that the ETI are due to arrive – schools have found this practice of great assistance.

SCHOOL MINIBUS REQUIREMENTS

It has been brought to our attention that in order to drive a school minibus there is now a requirement for drivers to have an appropriate driving licence. There are also other quite

substantial requirements which the driver of a minibus on school business must satisfy if they are to fulfil this function. On reflection all the unions represented on NITC, representing UTU, INTO, NEU, NASUWT and NAHT, have decided to advise their members **NOT TO TAKE ON** such onerous responsibilities on behalf of the school. In the unlikely event that minibus duties constitute part of your subsidiary contract for a post of responsibility you should approach your Principal to negotiate alternative duties. In this event you should contact UTU Headquarters to get guidance from an Official.

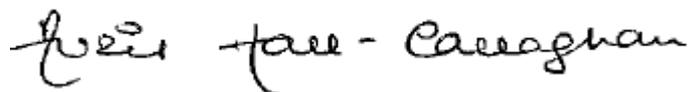
PRACTICAL CLASS SIZES

The recognised teachers' unions have prepared an advice document on Practical Class Sizes (see UTU website) which you should read carefully and take heed of if you are involved in the teaching of practical classes in your school. **REMEMBER – IT IS YOU WHO WILL HAVE TO ANSWER TO A COURT IF THERE IS AN ACCIDENT IN A CLASS THAT IS TOO LARGE!!**

ANNUAL UTU CONFERENCE 2018

The Annual Conference of the UTU will be held in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle on 15th/16th March 2018 and all members are welcome to come as an Observer. You should contact Karen Taylor at Headquarters to register your attendance and she will give you further details. The resolutions will be sent out to members after the conference when they have been discussed and adopted as policy. See the next issue of UTU News where photos and details of the motions which were passed will be shared.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Avril Hall-Callaghan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Avril Hall-Callaghan