

The Teachers' Side of the Teachers' Superannuation Working Party (TSWP) met on 20 July to discuss the next steps on teachers' pensions following the exchange of correspondence between the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the TUC General Secretary, which members were advised of in the last NASUWT Pensions Latest.

The unions on the TSWP representing England and Wales agreed to enter into sector scheme discussions on the Teachers' Pension Schemes but only on specific terms.

Below is a joint letter that was sent on 21 July to the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, by the NASUWT, ASCL, ATL, NAHT, the NUT, UCAC, UCU and Voice. This letter sets out clearly the basis on which all the unions believe that the sector discussions should take place.

'Dear Michael

Teachers' Pensions – sector scheme discussions

You will be aware of the recent developments in the TUC-led central discussions on public service pensions, the exchange of correspondence between the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander, and TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber and the statement on the discussions laid before Parliament on 19 July.

It is in the context of those exchanges that we write to advise you that all of the unions and associations that are signatories to this letter have agreed to participate in sector-specific discussions on the Teachers' Pension Schemes.

However, we believe that it is important for you to understand from the outset the basis on which we have agreed to participate.

We consider the sector scheme discussions to be exploratory.

Our participation will be on a without prejudice basis and should not be taken to imply either that we have agreed to any of the Government's proposals or actions already taken on public service pension reform or that we have conceded that such reform is necessary.

Our willingness to participate is a pragmatic and constructive response to the current circumstances, reflecting our commitment to seek a negotiated settlement.

We believe that it is important that before the discussions on the Teachers' Pension Schemes begin, we have the opportunity to meet with you to ensure that there is clarity between us about the basis on which the meetings will take place, to seek to ensure that they are productive and fruitful. We consider that a commitment from the outset by the DfE, to transparency and provision of all appropriate information would assist in securing a positive outcome.

As the timescale set by the Treasury for this stage in the process is extremely challenging, we request and would welcome a meeting with you at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Signed by all the General Secretaries'

We will advise members of the Secretary of State's response and continue to keep you updated regularly on developments.

For further details on pensions and the NASUWT campaign

GO TO

www.nasuwat.org.uk/ChampioningPublicSectorPensions