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General Secretary: Dr Patrick Roach

Date: 29 March 2023

Our Ref: 230329 Yousaf H/PR/LB

Humza Yousaf MSP
First Minister
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Yousaf,

On behalf of the NASUWT, I would like to express our very best wishes to you on your election as First Minister for the Scottish Government and we congratulate you also on your historic and important achievement.

We do not doubt that there will be many issues high on your agenda. We hope that education and closing the poverty-related attainment gap will be as high a priority for your Government as it is for the NASUWT. We look forward to working with you to support the efforts of the teaching profession in maintaining world-class education for all children and young people and in removing barriers to learning for the most disadvantaged, including through the expansion of universal free school meals provision.

The very best education nations around the world are focused resolutely on supporting teacher quality and enabling teachers to exercise their informed professional judgement. We also know that an inclusive education system founded on equity for all students is key to securing educational excellence and to delivering world-class provision for all students.

We hope that you will agree that investing in teachers must be at the heart of your Government's vision and programme of work. Securing an inclusive profession with more women and ethnic minorities represented at all levels of the profession must also be allied to greater efforts to ensure the place of serving teachers at the heart of all aspects of education decision making.

We also hope that your Government will recognise and take urgent steps to address the workload crisis in our schools, and work in partnership with trades unions and the teaching profession at large in tackling unnecessary bureaucracy, ensuring better support for dealing with poor pupil behaviour, and in putting teacher workload and wellbeing front and centre of the Government's priorities. An early resolution to the current impasse over the promised reduction in pupil class contact time would provide a powerful message of your commitment to teachers and learners.

The NASUWT looks forward to working with you and we look forward to meeting with you to discuss how we can work with you to secure the very best for pupils and teachers in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Roach', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary