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Susan Acland-Hood
Permanent Secretary
Department for Education

NASUWT

The Teachers' Union

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Dear Susan

Carbon Dioxide Monitors in Schools

The NASUWT is concerned that the official statements from the Department suggesting that around 90%+ of secondary schools and 70%+ primary schools have had CO2 monitors are not supported by feedback we are receiving from schools.

Reports from NASUWT members and from a number of employers we have spoken to paint a vastly different picture to that claimed by the Department. Many of our members have reported not seeing any monitors, and we have also had reports from Multi Academy Trusts that they have not received the numbers of monitors that they were expecting. Given the importance of ventilation, it is deeply troubling that the rollout of monitors appears to be faltering.

The NASUWT is concerned that schools are not receiving the number of monitors they were expecting, and/or some schools, on receipt of the monitors are not providing them to staff, presumably on the basis that if monitors are not provided, then the issues cannot be raised.

In addition, the NASUWT is aware that schools in several areas are reporting that the battery life of the monitors provided is very short, and no mains adaptors have been provided, which is severely impeding the usefulness of the monitors.

We believe that the Department needs urgently to ensure that:

- a) sufficient monitors to achieve the one monitor per two rooms level promised are delivered;
- b) schools are able to request further monitors where insufficient numbers have been delivered;
- c) schools are instructed that they must deploy the monitors they have been given to rooms/staff; and
- d) mains adaptors are provided for the models of monitors that are battery powered.

In addition, the NASUWT still has significant concerns that the guidance to schools on the use and operation of monitors is inadequate, and is disappointed that the representations we have made have been ignored. We have written separately to the HSE setting out our concerns in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Roach', written in a cursive style.

Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary