

Date: 12 January 2021

Our Ref: 210112/Drakeford M/PR/FC

Telephone: 0121 453 6150

Tel/Ffôn: 029 2054 6080

E-mail/E-bost: [nasuwt@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:nasuwt@mail.nasuwt.org.uk)  
Website/Gwefan: [www.nasuwt.org.uk](http://www.nasuwt.org.uk)

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS  
First Minister of Wales  
Welsh Government  
5th Floor  
Tŷ Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

General Secretary/Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol: **Dr Patrick Roach**

Email: [Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales)

Dear First Minister,

Since March 2020 teachers in Wales have risen to the challenge of a total change in working conditions that has been forced upon them by the public health crisis. In the initial months of the crisis good work was done in the development of a blended learning approach and the creation of remote learning resources. However, in September 2020 the Welsh Government made the decision to return the full cohort of learners back to educational settings and teachers have been required to engage in face to face and remote learning ever since with no time allocated to train in new ways of working and develop remote learning resources.

To facilitate remote learning, the NASUWT supported the Welsh Government's Guidance on 'Live Streaming and Video Conferencing: Safeguarding principles and practice' on the basis that Live Streaming could form a part of remote learning. However, with little training and resources and with concerns about the workload and child protection issue of Live Streaming it was agreed that the guidance should clearly state that participation in Live Streaming lessons was voluntary and could not be directed. The NASUWT believed that this was important because:

- Live Streaming was a change in teachers' service conditions which would require detailed consultation.
- The child protection implications of Live Streaming needed to be fully assessed and evaluated to ensure the protection of learners and teachers.
- Of the workload implications of Live Streaming.
- The GDPR implications of Live Streaming given the need to prohibit covert recording of lessons.

However, on Friday, 8 January, the NASUWT National Official Wales was informed that the Guidance had been amended and the passage relating to voluntary participation in Live Streaming removed.

There was no consultation over the changes to the Guidance and the implication of the change is, of course, that teachers throughout Wales can now be directed to undertake Live Streaming. This arbitrary change was in direct conflict with the purported aims of the Welsh Government to engage in Social Partnership with the Trade Unions. The NASUWT has been increasingly concerned with the growing propensity of Education Officials to impose changes without consultation but this latest amendment to the Live Streaming Guidance could lead to a damaging increase in stress and workload on teachers in Wales.

The NASUWT requests that the Welsh Government intervenes to require the engagement of education officials in an appropriate consultation over the changes to the Live Streaming Guidance and, on wider issues, develop a Social Partnership relationship that values the contribution that the Education Trade Unions make in the Education service in Wales. It is unacceptable to make arbitrary and rapid changes to guidance that impact on the working conditions of teachers as they struggle to develop the blended learning approaches that are needed in schools in Wales. Genuine social partnership should ensure that we develop joint responses to the changing needs of the Welsh Education service at this time of crisis.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr Patrick Roach  
**General Secretary**