

## Teachers' Pay Award 2017-18

As teachers return for the new academic year, there has still been no agreement on the pay award which was due to be made in April of this year.

There has been no progress over the Summer period and no notification of a new date for the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) to meet. The NASUWT considers this position to be unacceptable and will be raising the issue with the Cabinet Secretary for Education. The NASUWT will continue its campaign for teachers to receive a restorative and austerity-breaking pay award.



## Education Governance: Next Steps

The Scottish Government announced its 'Next Steps' proposals for the review of Education Governance on 15 June. Members have already received a copy of the detailed submission the Union made to the initial consultation and we have now completed an in-depth analysis of the Next Steps proposals which will be available shortly. The NASUWT's top priority is to ensure that throughout the consultation process the Union maintains a clear focus on seeking to reduce excessive workload.

## Teacher Supply

The recent announcement of the high number of unfilled teaching posts at the start of this academic year is extremely concerning. If there are any unfilled vacancies in your school, contact the NASUWT Scotland Centre immediately. No teacher should be taking on additional work or covering for unfilled vacancies.



## Member Update

As the new academic year begins, it is essential that you inform the NASUWT of any changes to your workplace, your home address or any other contact details in order that we can keep you updated with information on your pay, conditions of service and key education issues. You can do so by telephoning or emailing the Scotland Centre, or by going online at [www.nasuwat.org.uk/Scotland](http://www.nasuwat.org.uk/Scotland).

## Statutory Guidance

On 1 August 2017, the Statutory Guidance 'Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000' came into force. The guidance is split into three main parts, focusing on the following issues:

- pupils experiencing inequalities of outcome;
- the National Improvement Framework (NIF); and
- planning and reporting.

The NASUWT has significant concerns regarding the new duties and the workload burden which is being imposed on schools and teachers, considering that the statutory guidance has not been drafted to give due consideration to the recommendations set out by the Curriculum for Excellence Working Group on Tackling Bureaucracy. Members will shortly receive a separate and more detailed NASUWT briefing on the guidance.

## GTCS Fitness to Teach



The General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) has introduced new Fitness to Teach rules, which came into effect on Monday 21 August 2017. A consultation on the proposed changes ran from September to November 2016.

The NASUWT responded in detail to this consultation. The NASUWT's response can be accessed at [www.nasuw.org.uk/ProfessionalismScotland](http://www.nasuw.org.uk/ProfessionalismScotland).

The GTCS intends the new rules to focus on openness, honesty and reflection.

Examples of changes include:

- language changes so that all Fitness to Teach concerns are called 'referrals' rather than 'complaints';
- a New Threshold Policy at point of receipt to provide wider scope to close cases early when not at a level of seriousness that justifies a Fitness to Teach investigation;
- replacing the current Investigating Panel process with a new Panel Consideration stage which will consider Fitness to Teach and will look to promote early, honest professional reflection and learning rather than whether there is a case to answer.

The NASUWT will be keeping the new rules under close review.

## GTCS Council Elections 2017/18

Nominations for teachers to serve on the GTCS opened on 21 August 2017. Registered teachers are to be elected to fill seven of the 19 seats on the Council in the primary/nursery, secondary and further education categories for a four-year term. A by-election is also to be held to fill four interim registered teacher vacancies for a two-year term.

Candidates elected to the Council will take up office on 2 April 2018.

All of the information on eligibility to stand for election and to vote can be obtained from the GTCS website at [www.gtcs.org.uk/election](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/election).

Completed nomination forms and election statements must be sent to the GTCS to arrive not later than 5pm on Monday 25 September 2017.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact the NASUWT Scotland Centre.

## A message from Stirling University

Dear teachers

Last term you might have received an email inviting you to participate in a survey on teachers' professional working in Scotland by the University of Stirling. If you have already completed the online questionnaire, please accept our thanks and no further involvement is required. If you have NOT participated, please take the time to consider helping us with this important research, which will develop for the first time a systematic and comprehensive picture of teachers' working lives in Scotland. Your voices are absolutely crucial for our research.

Please note that participation in this survey is voluntary. Your responses will remain anonymous and confidential. The online questionnaire should take only around ten minutes to complete. The survey will remain open until 29/09/2017, but we would appreciate it if you would complete the questionnaire at your earliest convenience. The link to our survey is:

<https://stirling.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/teachers-professional-working-in-scotland-survey-2nd>.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact our research team member, Dr Feifei Bu, via email [feifei.bu@stir.ac.uk](mailto:feifei.bu@stir.ac.uk).

Thank you very much for your time and help!

Best regards

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## Events and Training

ALL EVENTS **FREE**  
TO NASUWT MEMBERS

### Last chance to book

**9 September 2017**

**Development Course for Women Members**

**12 September 2017**

**Mental Health Awareness Training, Edinburgh**

This is open to all NASUWT members and Representatives. The training will raise awareness of this increasingly common issue being experienced by teachers and provide advice on how to support colleagues facing these issues.

### Future events

**30 September 2017**

**Primary Teachers Seminar**

**18 November 2017**

**Supply Teachers Seminar**

**BOOK ONLINE  
NOW**

at [www.nasuwat.org.uk](http://www.nasuwat.org.uk)



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**from the date you join\***

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Generous Love2shop voucher rewards for all members who successfully invite other teachers to join them in the NASUWT.

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