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Our Ref: 180718/FALLAIZE/CK/DL

Deputy Fallaize  
President  
The Office for Education, Sport and Culture  
Sir Charles Frossard House  
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Dear Deputy Fallaize

I note with concern that the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture has announced that from September 2019, it will be commissioning OFSTED to conduct inspections of educational establishments across the Bailiwick.

Accountability frameworks have a critical influence upon all aspects of school and college life and should therefore be developed through a process of comprehensive and meaningful consultation with stakeholders.

Whilst the NASUWT has always been clear that schools and colleges should be held accountable for their work with learners, it is essential that they are held accountable for the right things in the right ways.

The seemingly covert way in which the Committee's decision was taken to impose Ofsted inspection, will undermine professional and public confidence in the process.

Teachers and school and college leaders will view this approach as entirely unacceptable.

The NASUWT believes a golden opportunity has been missed for the States to draw on best practice and develop its own accountability framework, taking advantage of the lessons learned by other governments.

The NASUWT not only has first-hand experience of the Ofsted inspection process but also of a number of other inspection regimes, and would have been able to share this experience and expertise with the States.

The Union is also concerned that the Committee has not explored fully alternatives before opting for the Ofsted. For example, the NASUWT and the States of Jersey, through the Jersey Education Partnership, have developed a Jersey Review Framework, which has created a rigorous school accountability system that is focussed on supporting schools to improve, whilst avoiding the negative aspects associated with Ofsted.

The Committee should also be aware that its decision is likely to impact on recruitment. The absence of Ofsted-style inspections is undoubtedly a key draw to the Island, indeed the Isle of Man Government highlights this prominently on its vacancy website. Introducing Ofsted inspections is likely to be a considerable barrier to recruitment, whilst at the same time making other jurisdictions, such as Jersey and the Isle of Man, more appealing.

I request that the Committee, or its representatives, meet with the NASUWT at the earliest opportunity to discuss this development, which will undoubtedly have implications for the working conditions and practices of our members.

I look forward to your early response

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Keates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Keates (Ms)  
**General Secretary**