



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London WC1P 3BT

28 September 2020

Dear Nick,

We write jointly to express our opposition to the Department's recent decision that England will not participate in the mini Teaching And Learning International Survey (TALIS) 2022, core survey of ISCED 2 or the optional surveys, in 2024. We find it particularly disappointing that this decision was made without any engagement with key stakeholders. We recognise the Department's view that cancelling TALIS could be seen as supporting its ambition to reduce burden and workload, particularly in the context of Covid-19.

However, we jointly believe that the unique insights gained through participation in TALIS are invaluable at this time of national and international emergency. Indeed, now more than ever, we need to understand the impact the global emergency has had on teaching and learning and what lessons we might learn going forward. We would also note that experience from our members does not lend support to the view that engagement with TALIS is particularly time consuming or burdensome and that the move to producing TALIS every six years will further mitigate any impacts in this respect.

TALIS is the only international education study that collects data on nationally representative samples of teachers and school leaders and enables understanding of how they and their working and learning environments compare. TALIS provides education professionals the opportunity to openly describe their professional experience in a way that they may not feel is possible in a national study conducted by the DfE, valuable though these may be. For policymakers, TALIS is powerful tool that provides important insights about the pressures on the workforce and its capacity to support the highest possible level of learner progress and achievement. In particular, in light of the Government's focus on teacher and school leader wellbeing, the evidence TALIS generates in this respect provides a unique opportunity to compare policy, practice and experience in England with that in other comparable jurisdictions.

Whilst we welcome the DfE data collections and research, these cannot substitute for TALIS. England's poor performance against OECD countries is no reason to withdraw from TALIS. On the contrary we believe it makes our participation more vital.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter at the next Programme of Talks. However, we are disappointed that the DfE did not engage with trade unions before making this decision and trust that further consideration of this issue will prove productive.

The voice of teachers and school leaders has never been more important as we seek to rebuild and recover from the pandemic. Education will play a vital role in our national and

global recovery and the comparative experience of educators across the OECD jurisdictions, gleaned through TALIS, provides insights and opportunities for learning that no other study provides.

We share your concerns about the timing of publication of some of the findings of TALIS 2018. We would support a joint approach to the TALIS Governing Board and OECD regarding the publication schedule for future TALIS series. However, we do not believe this is sufficient reason to remove England from forthcoming TALIS rounds.

We urge you to reconsider this decision. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in formative and collaborative discussions to find a way forward.

Yours sincerely,



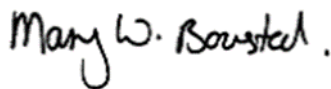
General Secretary
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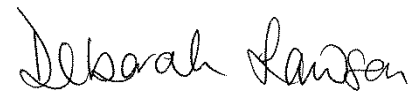
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