

JOB FINDER PORTAL

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced that it has commissioned the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) to develop a new online portal to advertise temporary and fixed-term employment opportunities in schools, including for supply teaching.

Whilst the idea behind this is intended to save schools money through reduced job-advertising costs, the DfE has not identified any safeguards to protect teachers from being subject to low pay and poor working conditions.

The NASUWT is concerned that the new service will advertise teachers' jobs alongside support staff roles such as teaching assistants/cover supervisors. In the absence of appropriate safeguards, this could lead to schools demanding teachers at support-staff pay rates.

Other concerns include:

- lack of regulation or vetting of organisations that use the portal to advertise vacancies;
- potential for employment agencies to use the portal to further reduce costs and increase profit margins;
- no enforcement of national standards relating to the pay and conditions of teachers;
- no restrictions on the amounts of public money that schools can be asked to pay agencies, or the overheads that agencies can demand;
- no prohibition on the scandalous, outdated and discriminatory system of finder's fees which is being used by some agencies to deny access to permanent employment for supply teachers;
- no right of access to the Teachers' Pension Scheme for supply teachers.

The NASUWT is pressing the Government for stronger regulation of supply agencies, through initiatives such as nationally enforceable standards to root out rogue individuals and unfair employment practices.

The NASUWT is the only union that has put supply teachers at the heart of a national trade dispute with the Government.

The NASUWT is pressing the Government to take the necessary steps to develop a national job finder portal that is capable of rooting out unscrupulous supply agencies and delivering improved conditions of service, pay and pension rights for supply teachers.



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