

## **Pension Reforms**

Meetings have been held between the Public Sector Pensions Authority (PSPA), the NASUWT and other unions regarding reform of the Isle of Man Teachers' Pension Scheme. These meetings have been largely positive and productive, and will continue over the coming months, although no agreement has yet been reached. Members will be informed of any significant developments as they arise, and full consultation with members will occur prior to any final agreement being made.

## **Education Bill**

The proposed Education Bill has been postponed and will not now progress in the current Parliament. The Department of Education and Children (DEC) will need to re-evaluate its plans but as yet there is no further information. The NASUWT will continue to monitor the situation and keep members informed of any developments.

## **September Pay Award**

The NASUWT has continued to press the DEC for a decision as to what they intend to do to Manx teachers' pay in September. The DEC has yet to respond with a definite proposal, and the NASUWT will continue to press the Department on this matter.

The NASUWT will not accept any pay award which fails to at the very least maintain parity with the UK School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document.

Evidence is mounting, however, that a substantial pay uplift is required for teachers in the Isle of Man. Recruitment pressures are becoming more acute with substantial numbers of teachers being required to teach outside of their specialisms or even requiring the recruitment of unqualified teachers to plug the gaps that are appearing. Both of these are unacceptable and threaten to undermine the Manx education service.

## **Sick Pay Scheme**

The DEC has announced it wishes to reform the sick pay scheme as it claims that abuse is occurring. However, no evidence of widespread abuse was produced.

The NASUWT was clear that if abuse is occurring, then this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, not by attacking all teachers' conditions of service. It was unfortunate, however, that only the NASUWT voiced these concerns and took this line.

The NASUWT will not accept any worsening of the terms and conditions of service for Manx teachers.