

## Government's Spending Review 2020 – a 'slap in the face' to the teaching profession

On 25 November 2020, the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered the Comprehensive Spending Review 2020, outlining the UK Government's spending plans for 2021/22. Whilst the Spending Review focused on spending decisions for Government departments in England, the spending decisions will feed through to funding for Wales through the Barnett formula.

Under the Barnett formula, the Welsh Government will receive an additional £1.3 billion, with £560 million of core funding and £770 million in relation to COVID-19.

In the Spending Review, the Chancellor announced that teachers and most other public sector workers who earn £24,000 or more will have their pay rise for 2021/22 'paused'. Effectively, this includes all qualified teachers and many unqualified teachers. Unqualified teachers earning less than £24,000 can only expect a pay increase of £250 in 2021/22.

The NASUWT has left the UK Government in no doubt about the unacceptability of the Chancellor's statement on teachers' pay for 2021/22.

Dr Patrick Roach, the NASUWT General Secretary, has stated: *'The short-sighted decision to freeze teachers' pay is out of step with public opinion and is a slap in the face to the teaching profession, particularly at a time when teachers have been serving on the frontline, risking their own health to maintain education and support for children and young people. The Chancellor's claim that a public sector pay freeze is necessary as private sector wages fell by nearly 1% in the six months to September is no justification for imposing further real-terms cuts to the pay of teachers.'*

### Implications for teachers in Wales

Teachers' pay in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Government, and the Independent Welsh Pay Review Body (IWPRB) is currently consulting over its 3rd Remit, which was issued on 9 October 2020 and includes the 2021 pay award. The IWPRB has delivered groundbreaking improvements to teachers' pay and conditions in Wales since its inception, and the NASUWT will resist any attempts by HM Treasury or the Welsh Government to amend the IWPRB's 3rd Remit to include a teachers' pay freeze. The NASUWT will also work with the Trades Union Congress (TUC), Welsh TUC and affiliates to oppose the UK Government's policy towards public sector workers.

### The 2020/21 pay award

NASUWT Negotiating Secretaries should be aware that the Comprehensive Spending Review 2020 does not have any impact on the 2020/21 teachers' pay award. Schools should continue to pay the September 2020 teachers' pay award in full to their teachers, and Negotiating Secretaries should make National Executive Members aware of any schools which threaten to use the Spending Review announcement as a pretext for refusing or ceasing to pay the 2020 pay award to one or more teachers. Information about the 2020 pay award is available at: <https://www.nasuwt.org.uk/advice/pay-pensions/pay-award/wales.html>.



**E-mail: [rc-wales-cymru@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:rc-wales-cymru@mail.nasuwt.org.uk)**  
**Website: [www.nasuwt.org.uk](http://www.nasuwt.org.uk)**