

NASUWT

APRIL 2001

REPORT 06

ACTION CONTINUES

In March 2001, the employers offered talks on the teacher's contract and strategies to resolve the dispute on cover.

The NASUWT National Action Committee evaluated carefully the proposals and responded positively, indicating a suspension of the 'Cover to Contract' action might be possible to enable the discussions to begin in a constructive atmosphere.

Members were advised in NASUWT Report No. 5 that they would be notified of the exact date on which suspension would commence. Unfortunately, the anticipated talks have not materialised and, therefore, the action will continue.

Nigel de Gruchy, General Secretary said:

"Two weeks have passed in which constructive dialogue could have taken place. I understand that the employers have renewed their invitation to talks, subject to action being suspended. They now claim to be making "ground-breaking proposals" on teacher workload.

"It is interesting but we will need to see them before making any response.

"I deeply regret that the employers have rejected prematurely a 35 hour limit on the working week in advance of the talks. It is neither a sensible nor helpful move and is tactically naive. They appear to have lost the art of good negotiation in the 15 years without such dialogue.

"It is profoundly unhelpful for them to mix-up cover with the wider issues on the contract."



GTC HEEDS NASUWT WARNING

On 20th March Nigel de Gruchy met with Carol Adams, GTC Chief Executive and warned her that NASUWT remained deeply concerned about the GTC's inappropriate and over-ambitious extension of its roles. NASUWT had also been advised that the unnecessarily high fee could be open to legal challenge.

The GTC has now called an emergency meeting for the 24th April to consider the level of the fee. It has secured compensatory finance from the DfEE to avoid these difficulties.

Nigel de Gruchy said: *"The announcement of an emergency meeting indicates that some heed has been paid to our warnings. I welcome this development. It provides a short-term solution on the level of the fee. The question of whether the GTC should be involved at all in some of these activities has still to be answered.*

"The issue of whether the GTC should continue to portray itself as a teachers' rather than a teaching council is still unresolved. Until it is, teachers will continue to be misled and confused."

MORE SCHOOLS AND LEAS JOIN THE ACTION

NASUWT members in 40 LEAs and 256 individual schools have continued 'Cover to Contract' action whilst the proposed talks have been under consideration. Now notification of the date of commencement of action will be issued to additional employers in:

- Medway Towns
- 10 schools in Swindon, Hampshire, West Sussex and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The ballot in Birmingham LEA has just closed. Action will commence on 23rd April.

Ballots will commence immediately in 13 more LEAs:

Bury	Oldham
Calderdale	Oxfordshire
Derbyshire	Rochdale
Hertfordshire	Slough
Hull	Tameside
Leicestershire	Trafford
Nottinghamshire	

and in 46 additional schools in all parts of England where significant staffing shortages are being experienced.