



Joint Supplementary Statement to the School Teachers' Review Body

Association of School & College Leaders

National Association of Head Teachers

National Education Union

Voice

- 1 Our joint statement to the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) of January noted that the situation on teacher pay and supply remains critical and cannot be addressed without additional Government funding. We called on the STRB to refuse to be constrained by the Government's unwillingness to address the funding issue.
- 2 The points made in the evidence submitted by other organisations underline still further the consensus on the need for effective action on pay, fully funded by the Government, to tackle the wide and deep teacher supply problems. We call on the STRB to take this consensus, and the isolation of the Government, into account when making its recommendations.
- 3 Our joint statement in January noted the serious and widespread nature of the teacher supply problems. Evidence submitted to the STRB by other organisations supports our view. Nothing in the Government's evidence refutes the key point that teacher supply problems are serious and widespread.
- 4 Our January statement noted the unanimity of the teaching profession on the need for an above-inflation, fully funded and undifferentiated teacher pay increase this year. The supplementary evidence from NEOST and the National Governors' Association (NGA) adds the support of local authorities and governors to the clear consensus on this issue in the teaching profession.

- 5 This consensus on pay, recognition of the funding problem and call for effective action on pay fully funded by the Government is starkly at odds with the Government's failure to engage with these issues. The Government's statement that a 2 per cent increase in teacher pay is affordable nationally is both a complete failure to engage with the key issues and an inappropriate attempt to constrain the STRB in its deliberations.
- 6 The emphasis in the Government's evidence on targeting of the pay award similarly runs counter to the clear consensus that the teacher supply problems are so serious and widespread that there is a clear need for a whole-market positive signal on pay.
- 7 The evidence and the consensus are clear: a 2 per cent pay increase would be grossly inadequate and any pay award must be fully funded by the Government. We call on the STRB to make evidence-based recommendations to restore the value of teacher pay and to effectively address the teacher supply problems that have resulted from the attacks on teacher pay. The STRB must not be constrained by the Government's attempts to evade its own responsibility to address the consequences of the funding problems it has created.

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