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Date: 8 May 2024

Our Ref: 240508 Swinney J/PR/LB

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**General Secretary: Dr Patrick Roach**

John Swinney MSP  
First Minister  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear Mr Swinney,

On behalf of the NASUWT, I would like to express our very best wishes to you on your election as First Minister for the Scottish Government and we congratulate you on this achievement.

We do not doubt that there will be many issues high on your agenda but, given your past experience as Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, we hope that education and closing the poverty-related attainment gap will remain a top priority for your Government, as it is for the NASUWT. We look forward to working with you to support the efforts of the teaching profession in maintaining world-class education for all children and young people and in removing barriers to learning for the most disadvantaged, including through the further expansion of universal free school meals provision.

You will be well aware that the very best education nations around the world are focused resolutely on supporting teacher quality and enabling teachers to exercise their informed professional judgement. We also know that an inclusive education system founded on equity for all students is key to securing educational excellence and to delivering world-class provision for all students.

We hope that you will agree that investing in teachers must be at the heart of your Government's vision and programme of work. We look forward to your Government delivering on its promise to increase teacher numbers during the lifetime of this Parliament. We would also urge you to take the steps needed to secure an inclusive profession with more women and ethnic minorities represented at all levels of the profession alongside greater efforts to ensure the place of serving teachers at the heart of all aspects of education decision-making.

We also hope that your Government will recognise and take urgent steps to address the workload crisis in our schools, and work in partnership with trades unions and the teaching profession at large in tackling unnecessary bureaucracy, ensuring better support for dealing with poor pupil behaviour and in putting teacher workload and wellbeing front and centre of the Government's priorities. An early resolution to the

current impasse over the promised reduction in pupil class contact time would provide a powerful message of your commitment to teachers and learners and we look forward to the publication of a National Action Plan on Behaviour very soon, while further resources to deliver on the promises of the Morgan Review of Additional Support for Learning are essential.

Of course, investment in teachers and education will require additional resources and we echo the calls of the STUC to your Government to exercise its powers to raise additional funds through further measures to ensure a fair and progressive tax system

The NASUWT looks forward to working with you and we look forward to meeting with you to discuss how we can work with you to secure the very best for pupils and teachers in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Roach', written in a cursive style.

Dr Patrick Roach  
**General Secretary**