



SCIS RESPONSE TO HUTTON REPORT:

Public pension schemes and independent schools

Following today's pensions report from Lord Hutton, SCIS calls on the UK Government to maintain independent school teachers in any future public sector pension scheme.

SCIS notes Lord Hutton's concern that including non-public sector workers in the public sector schemes could increase the financial risk to government. However, Lord Hutton himself points out that there may be sound policy reasons for inclusion. This is certainly the case for the Scottish Teachers Superannuation Scheme.

SCIS Director John Edward said: "We have been an active part of the review process and read with interest Lord Hutton's proposals to make public sector pension schemes sustainable. We welcome the recognition of the principle that benefits that have already been accrued should not be removed.

"We hope that the government, in considering the recommendations, will take full account of the advantages of encouraging the two-way movement of teachers between the independent and state sectors, something SCIS has always sought to maintain and promote. This promotes the exchange of best practice, while enriching the experience and developing the expertise of teachers. The ability for our teachers to enrol in the STSS plays an important part in this. SCIS itself runs a teacher CPD programme that involves over 1000 probationers, teachers and other staff per year, many of whom teach in the state sector at some point in their careers.

“Independent schools and teachers have always paid their full contributions to the STSS. We believe that, provided public sector pensions schemes are set up sustainably, there should be no additional risk to government by including independent school teachers in a new STSS. Indeed in a well-run scheme additional participants will make a positive contribution of benefit to all.”

Ends

For further information, please call John Edward or Sarah Randell on 0131 220 2106.

Notes to editors

Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) is an independent, educational charity representing over 70 member schools in Scotland, which educate more than 32,000 children of mixed abilities from diverse backgrounds. SCIS promotes choice, diversity and excellence in Scottish education.

Press queries