**TO: Second Level Workplace Representatives / Branch Secretaries / Executive Committee**

23rd October 2014

***For the attention of all TUI Members***

***Re: Junior Cycle***

Dear Colleagues,

On Wednesday, 22nd October, representatives of TUI and ASTI met with Minister Jan O’Sullivan and her Department officials. We had earlier met the Minister on 3rd September.

At these meetings, both TUI and ASTI made very clear our fundamental objections to proposals included in the Framework for Junior Cycle announced in 2012 and introduced for 1st year English students in September 2014. We stated our belief that the proposals threaten national education standards and will exacerbate inequality between schools. While teachers support educationally sound reform of education we strongly oppose proposals that undermine the integrity of the system through the introduction of school based assessment for certification and the abolition of state certified external assessment.

The TUI and ASTI have agreed with the Minister that we will engage in discussions over the next few weeks to see if a resolution of the dispute can be found. We agreed that these discussions will be chaired by Dr Pauric Travers, former President of St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra. Dr Travers’ role will be specifically confined to chairing these meetings. We expect these discussions to be very difficult as the unions and the Department are far apart on the Junior Cycle proposals.

We thank you for your strong continuing support of the TUI position on the Junior Cycle particularly as demonstrated by the very resounding mandate for industrial action, including strike action.

Any developments will be carried on the TUI website – [www.tui.ie](http://www.tui.ie)

Yours sincerely,

 

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John MacGabhann Gerry Quinn

General Secretary President