

**Teachers’ Union of Ireland**

**Response to Inspectorate Consultation**

**(September 2014)**

TUI represents teachers (10,000+) employed by Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and in Community and Comprehensive (C&C) Schools. Following a request for submission on a number of issues including a review of inspection and appeals processes, TUI respectfully makes the enclosed points about each individual document.

Education Act 1998 (Publication of Inspection Reports on Schools and Centres of Education) Regulations 2014:

TUI has nothing to add or amend.

Procedure for Review of Inspections on Schools and Teachers Under Section 13(9) of the Education Act 1998:

TUI understands from the last Education Sub-Committee meeting that many teachers are not aware of the procedure for review under section 1.2.  Perhaps the Inspectorate needs to communicate this better to schools.

Under section 1.5(3), perhaps the “relationship” should also include “open” or does this expose our members?

Under section 1.5(7), can members show documents to their trade union?

Under section 1.5(8), can a trade union representative be a “friend”?  Why are legal representatives not allowed?  The issue of trade union reps being friends also applies to section 3.5

Under section 2.2, what happens if a teacher is not happy with something in the report that wasn’t mentioned by the inspector at the oral feedback stage?

Under section 2.3, could the DES include the website link?  I used six clicks on the DES website and couldn’t find the inspectorate regions and relevant personnel.  I then resorted to Google and found it in one click.

Code of Practice for the Inspectorate:

The document talks a lot about “promoting professional dialogue”, “respectful engagement” and promoting/supporting national programmes.  However, it only mentions supporting teachers and school leaders in the appendix.  Is the “engagement” and “dialogue” only to be one way?

Guidelines for the Publication of School Inspection Reports:

There’s a typo on line 3 of section 1.4.  TUI believes that “guidelines to not apply” should say “do not apply”.

Under sections 3.5 and 3.8, if the chairperson of the Board of Management is not available can the role be deputised to someone else?

Teacher Questionnaires as part of the WSE-MLL process:

At our meeting of July 24th, 2014 the Inspcetorate answered many of our concerns about the process as currently carried out in the case of the pilot process. However, TUI has some concerns about the overall concept. For example, is this situation, and that of teacher questionnaires of the inspection process, the full extent to which questionnaires will be used. Is the Inspectorate intending to use questionnaires for other purposes in future and if so, in what context and for what purpose? TUI acknowledges the internal safeguards currently in place as discussed on July 24th but safeguards owe nothing to legality so could such safeguards be overcome by a Freedom of Information request which could then lead to the identification of an individual school? The response of TUI to this matter will be coloured by any response from the Inspectorate.

TUI is available to participate in face to face dialogue in order to develop the above points in more detail should you wish to do so.

Ends

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