

In The Keys
28th January 2020

FOR ORAL ANSWER

The Hon. Member for Onchan (Ms Edge) to ask the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture –

If he will make a statement on the NEU members rejection of the pay deal offered and the imminent industrial action?

Mr Speaker

Thank you Mr Speaker. It is very disappointing that the deal negotiated by the NEU, Department officers with Manx Industrial Relation Services which was recommended for acceptance by the union executive has been rejected.

Last September, all our teachers received a 2.75% pay rise. The deal put to the ballot would have seen a further increase of pay this September of £6,000 for new starting teachers with all teachers receiving an additional £1,100 with the move to the London fringe scale. It would mean Island teachers being paid the same as places like Bedfordshire. It is expected that teachers will receive a further increase of at least 2.5% in September 2020 and some senior leaders could expect a pay rise of between £2,000 and £3,000 this September.

The Department will continue to engage with the Manx Industrial Relations Service to come to an agreement. It is, of course, very disappointing that any industrial action will affect our children's education and the Department has been keen all along to discuss a pay deal with the unions. However, even up to today, the Department has still not received an indication from NAHT, NASUWT or ASCL as to the

pay deal they wish for going forward, they continue to quote STPCD +X over 3 years but have yet to give a number to what X is.

I hope Honourable members will understand how difficult it has been for my officers to negotiate a deal if unions continue to not give us a number to the percentage of what X is.

Mr Speaker, I hope Honourable Members will realise that my Department was allocated 2% for pay rises for this year's pay agreement which was 2.75% and have already funded 0.75% from internal budgets. I hope Honourable Members will understand any pay offer above this will require the Department to put a business case forward for additional funding and during these negotiations all unions have been informed that a business case will need to be put forward to Treasury for any additional funds.