

SCOTTISH NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

THE SNCT MET ON WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2023 IN THE OFFICES OF EIS, 46 MORAY PLACE, EDINBURGH. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ALSO JOINED THE MEETING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE. DES MORRIS (TEACHERS' SIDE) WAS IN THE CHAIR.

Attendees

Employers' Side	Councillor Katie Hagmann (Joint Chair) Councillor Shaun Macaulay Councillor Gary Robinson
Scottish Government	Sam Anson (Joint Chair) Stuart Robb
Teachers' Side	Des Morris (EIS) (Joint Chair) Andrene Bamford (EIS) Allan Crosbie (EIS) Mick Dolan (EIS) Heather Hughes (EIS) Valerie Inkster (EIS) Paula McEwan (EIS) David Smith (EIS) Fiona Dalziel (SSTA) Seamus Searson (SSTA) Mike Corbett (NASUWT)
In attendance	Simon Cameron (Employers' Side Joint Secretary) Stuart Bain (Employers' Side Secretariat) Julie Bremner (COSLA Adviser) Ed Gordon (Employers' Side Secretariat) Kenny Macneil (Employers' Side Adviser) Louise Wilson (Teachers' Side Joint Secretary) Dave McGinty (Teachers' Side Secretariat) Stephanie Walsh (Scottish Government Joint Secretary) Stuart Milligan (Scottish Government Secretariat) Greg Dempster (AHDS Observer) Graham Hutton (SLS Observer)
Apologies	Andrea Bradley (EIS), Paul Cochrane (SSTA), Nicola Dasgupta (EIS), Angela Felvus (Scottish Government Secretariat), Councillor Stephen McCabe, Zak Tuck (Scottish Government), Councillor Mandy Watt.

1. Minute of Previous Meeting on 17 May 2023

The minute of the previous meeting was agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

The meeting noted that there were no matters arising that were not already on the formal agenda.

3. Reduction in Class Contact Time

Sam Anson (Joint Chair) provided an update for the SNCT. He informed the meeting that the Scottish Government remained committed to the overarching principle to deliver class contact reduction by the end of the current Scottish Parliament. The Cabinet Secretary has given that commitment against a background of financial constraints. No contractor has yet been appointed to undertake the separate piece of work to develop evidence-informed recommendations on teacher workforce requirements in Scotland. However, a contract specification has been drawn up and this would be shared with the Joint Secretaries after the meeting. This contract work would examine teacher numbers, pupil rolls and pupil teacher ratios. It was hoped that this work would be completed by the end of 2023 and would consider the results from the annual school census which would be published in December 2033.

Des Morris (Joint Chair) expressed concern about the implementation timetable. He highlighted that the Programme for Government, published on 5 September 2023, made no reference reductions in class contact time. In response, Sam Anson stated that the Cabinet Secretary had outlined the Scottish Government's position. Des Morris also expressed concern over the language being used and the differences between "fully implemented" and "best progressed". He concluded by emphasising that the Teachers' Side is seeking a statement that these reforms will be "fully implemented".

Councillor Hagmann intimated that COSLA will work in partnership with all sides of the SNCT to progress this issue. While no further firm commitments could be given at the meeting, the implementation date remains 2026.

Discussions on this matter would continue at meetings of the Joint Secretaries.

4. Report from SNCT Support Group 25 May 2023.

The meeting considered the contents of a report which has been circulated in advance of the meeting. Following discussion, this report was withdrawn as it contained textual inaccuracies. A revised report would be updated to the SNCT website in due course. Des Morris provided an oral report under the following headings.

- Motions from the Teachers' Panel of the SNCT
- Maternity and Paternity Leave
- Drama and Music to be considered as Practical Classes as identified in Appendix 2.9 of the SNCT Handbook.
- Management Time for HTs, DHTs and PTs

5. SNCT Circulars – For Homologation

The following SNCT Circular was approved for homologation.

5.1 SNCT/23/94 – Remote Schools Allowance

6. ASN Working Group of the SNCT

6.1 Subject to the approval of an agreed remit, the meeting agreed to establish an ASN Working Group of the SNCT. This ASN Working Group would conduct a major investigation and/or research into the current definitions and class size maxima as outlined in Part 2: Appendix 2.9 of the SNCT Handbook in order to refresh them for teaching and learning in the 21st century.

7. Date and time of future meetings

The calendar of meetings for the coming year were agreed.

SNCT Meetings: (Meetings start at 2.00 pm)

Wednesday 21 February 2024 – Employers’ Side to Chair at Verity House (In person)

Wednesday 15 May 2024 (AGM) – Scottish Government to Chair at Moray Place (In person)

SNCT Support Group Meetings: (Meetings start at 2.00 pm at EIS offices, Moray Place, Edinburgh)

Thursday 16 November 2023 – Hybrid meeting

Thursday 21 March 2024 – In-person meeting

Thursday 23 May 2024 – In-person meeting

8. AOCB.

There were no other items of competent business.