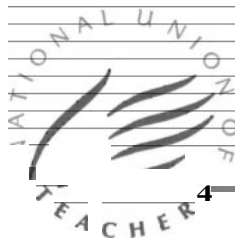


Mr M J Walters
Backs! 2005 Stakeholder Liaison
Health and Safety Executive
East and South East Division
International House
Dover Place
ASHFORD
Kent TN23 1HU



Our Ref: SS/AJ/PB/CA

17 June 2005

Dear Mr Walters

I am writing this letter to confirm that the National Union of Teachers fully supports the 'Backs! 2005' campaign.

The NUT is taking the following action as part of 'Backs! 2005':

- liaising with all NUT division and association secretaries and health and safety advisers across England and Wales to inform them of our support for this campaign and to encourage their participation;
- calling on health and safety advisers to brief NUT safety representatives on the initiative and to support them in carrying out safety inspections on manual handling risks in their workplaces; and
- in the light of the campaign, revising our guidance to NUT members on Manual Handling and Safe Use of Work Equipment, including advice on the risks of musculoskeletal disorders arising from teachers using child-sized furniture in the classroom.

It is anticipated that the above actions will bring about the following improvements in the workplace:

- an enhanced awareness amongst our membership of the risks of musculoskeletal disorders arising in the course of their work and how best to reduce/remove these risks;
- a focus on safety inspections to assess and counter such hazards; and
- through continued provision of high-quality NUT health and safety guidance to our members, a decrease in the incidence of work-related musculoskeletal disorders in the education sector.

The NUT is committed to working with the Health and Safety Executive and local authorities to help reduce in the long term the high cost to industry and society of back pain and other musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) in the workplace.

Yours sincerely

STEVE SINNOTT
General Secretary

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