



Scotland's largest  
and most effective  
education trade union



June 2017

[www.eis.org.uk](http://www.eis.org.uk)

## Message from the General Secretary

Dear Colleague

As this is the last Bulletin of the academic year may I take the opportunity to thank you for all your efforts over the past session. School Reps and Branch Secretaries are the backbone of the Union and the EIS could not carry out its valuable work without your invaluable contributions so a very genuine thank you to you all.

I hope you enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation over the summer holiday period.

Best wishes

Larry Flanagan  
EIS General Secretary

## Scottish Government Education Governance Review

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June Deputy First Minister John Swinney issued a Parliamentary Statement on the Review of Education Governance.

The statement, and associated publications, has laid out a wide-ranging set of proposals which the EIS will wish to consider in depth through our democratic processes.

Most of the proposals are subject to further consultation which is welcome as clearly there are a number of questions to be answered. The EIS Executive will be considering the matter further at its next meeting. Feedback from schools and members would be welcome.

The retention of the SNCT's role and of local authorities as the employer are both in line with the EIS submission, as is the recognition that more pedagogical leadership and support has to be offered to schools. Other issues may be more problematic.

Electronic versions of the Education Governance documents can be found at the below address:  
[http://www.eis.org.uk/Education\\_and\\_Professional/Governance.htm](http://www.eis.org.uk/Education_and_Professional/Governance.htm)

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please make members aware of the recent Education Governance Review.

## Notice of Forthcoming Political Fund Ballot

It is a legal requirement for trade unions to have a political fund if their aims and objectives are to include political activity and campaigning.

The EIS operates such a political fund, which allows us to campaign on broad issues such as the recent local government elections, where we produced our own manifesto for Scottish Education. It also allows us to fund

publicity campaigns on matters such as smaller class sizes or, as in the recent FE dispute, set out our objectives where media coverage is poor.

**However, the EIS is neither affiliated to, nor aligned with, any political party; accordingly, the EIS Political Fund does not pay into, or contribute to, any political party.**

Instead, the EIS uses its political fund to defend members' interests in Scottish Parliament, UK Parliament, in Europe and on all matters of government policy and legislation. Without such a fund, we could be prevented from lobbying to change policies or legislation which affect members' working lives.

The law requires a ballot of the trade union membership every 10 years to maintain a political fund. The next ballot to maintain the EIS Political Fund will take place in September 2017.

The EIS will be urging you to vote YES in the political fund ballot so that we can continue to defend your interests effectively, and campaign for better workplaces, pensions and employment laws.

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please make members aware of the upcoming Political Fund Ballot and encourage them to vote yes. Please check membership lists in your establishment and encourage members to provide a home email address to receive bulletins and updates.

## National Standardised Assessments

National standardised assessments for P1, P4, P7 and S3 are due to be implemented from August 2017. The EIS advice on assessment remains in force and can be accessed on the EIS website.

The EIS understanding is that Scottish Government has provided a briefing to Headteachers on the training requirements of the new assessments, with broad indication of the time required for this. WTAs need to accommodate this training requirement.

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please make members aware of the incoming national standardised assessments.

## International Teacher Professional Identity Research

The EIS is currently working with Education International to support a significant piece of research into teacher professional identity. Other countries taking part include Chile, Canada, Germany, Kenya, Sweden and Singapore.

The research aims to establish how teacher identities interact with:

- Classroom practice
- Professional development
- Leadership and collaboration
- Aspects of the system, e.g., accountability and pay
- Wider social / cultural context

And to identify how teachers create, access, share and shape professional knowledge.

We would be very grateful if you could support this valuable study by completing the survey at the below address **by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June**. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ElstudyScotland>

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please make members aware of the survey and encourage them to take part.

## School Rep Research

School Union Rep Alison Murphy is currently conducting PhD research at Edinburgh University about the role of Union Representatives and what motivates them.

She is especially looking to speak to secondary school reps who have been active for a few years.

You can also read more about the research being conducted on page 28 of the April 2017 edition of the SEJ which is can be accessed on the EIS website.

**Action for Representatives:** If you are interested in participating you can email Alison directly at [s1371946@sms.ed.ac.uk](mailto:s1371946@sms.ed.ac.uk) or contact [lmeechan@eis.org.uk](mailto:lmeechan@eis.org.uk)

## National Reps' Networking Conference

The EIS will be holding its first National Reps' Networking Conference.

It will be based on the theme "Organising – Building Power, Delivering Change". It will be a key opportunity for reps from all around the country to participate in discussion, exchange experiences, participate in workshops relevant to your role and generally build our unions networking ability.

This will be held in the TEI Building, St Enoch Square, Glasgow, is a full day event and will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017. It is aimed at all workplace reps whether new in the role or experienced Reps.

If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Cook ([jcook@eis.org.uk](mailto:jcook@eis.org.uk)) at Moray Place for further details.

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please make Reps aware of the conference and encourage them to attend.

## Save the Date: Professional Learning Conference 2017

A half-day event will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September. It will take place at the IET Teacher Building in Glasgow, from 10am – 1pm (tea, coffee and registration from 9.30am).

A range of workshops will be on offer as well as an inspirational keynote speaker, all on the theme of teacher leadership.

Further information will follow.

To register your interest in this event please contact Ashley Gray at [agray@eis.org.uk](mailto:agray@eis.org.uk)

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please make members aware of the conference and that more information will be available soon.

## Headteachers' & Depute Headteachers' Conference 2017 - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Please note that the Headteachers' & Depute Headteachers' Conference 2017 will be held on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. The venue and programme are to be confirmed and further details will be made available as soon as possible.

For further information please contact Leigh Meechan [lmeechan@eis.org.uk](mailto:lmeechan@eis.org.uk)

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please make relevant members aware of the conference and that more information will be available soon.

## Professional Learning Opportunities from the EIS

New training courses and workshops are available to book now:

**Equality and Human Rights in the Classroom** - a free, one-day course looking at the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Equality Act 2010 and how to bring a rights-based approach to learning. Open to both teachers and college lecturers.

**Building Teacher Leadership** - Leadership Skills for Classroom Teachers – a free, two-part course delivered over two Saturday mornings, aimed at unpromoted teachers and lecturers, which will explore pedagogical and other types of leadership in the school / college setting.

**Globe Education Shakespeare workshops** - three different workshops, each lasting two hours, will be delivered by the Globe Education team - one aimed at primary and SEN teachers, one at Drama teachers and one at secondary English teachers. They will take place in the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh and are offered at a cost of £25. Places are limited for this fantastic opportunity.

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please make members aware of training courses and encourage them to attend. Further details of all courses and how to apply can be found at <https://www.eis.org.uk/CPD/Training&Workshops.htm>

## EIS Equality Reps

We are now recruiting members who are interested in becoming Equality Reps for a new tranche of Stage one training starting in the new 17/18 session.

The scheduled dates are Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October. You must attend all three days of Stage one, then a further two days of stage two to become fully accredited. The training will be held in the EIS HQ offices and will run from 9.30am until 3.30pm each day with lunch provided. Please contact your Local Association/Branch Secretary to seek approval to attend.

Further information on the role of Equality Reps is available in the Reps section of our web site or contact the Equality Department [agray@eis.org.uk](mailto:agray@eis.org.uk)

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please make members aware of the opportunity to become an Equality Rep.

## **EIS Learning Reps**

Are you passionate about professional learning? Do you feel strongly about high quality learning experiences that meet your needs and those of your colleagues? If so, becoming an EIS Learning Rep could be an opportunity for you.

The primary role of the EIS Learning Rep is to engage with and support members on professional learning issues, as well as to take forward the professional learning agenda in the workplace.

The EIS offers initial training and ongoing support for this role. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Lesley Walker at [lwalker@eis.org.uk](mailto:lwalker@eis.org.uk) or visit [http://www.eis.org.uk/Learning\\_Reps/LearningReps\\_Intro.htm](http://www.eis.org.uk/Learning_Reps/LearningReps_Intro.htm)

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please make members aware of the opportunity to become a Learning Rep.

## **Members Subject to Complaints**

Local authorities, Colleges and Universities have a duty to investigate complaints. Members subject to such investigation are advised to co-operate and to seek early advice and support from their EIS Representative.

The enclosed advice leaflet is for all members who are subject to complaints and to situations where the complaints are believed to be spurious, vexatious, or malicious. The leaflet will also be available on the EIS website.

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please retain a copy of the enclosed leaflet and publicise to members in your establishment.

## **About to Retire?**

Membership to the Scottish Retired Teachers' Association (SRTA) is open to all retired teachers in Scotland. The aims of the association are:

- To promote and protect the interests of all retired teachers, especially regarding pensions.
- To co-operate with other Public service pensioners groups in dealing directly with Government.
- To provide social contact with former colleagues and friends through branch activities.

To find out more please refer to the enclosed leaflet for contact details of all SRTA Secretaries.

**Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries:** Please retain a copy of the enclosed leaflet and publicise to members in your establishment.

## **EIS Calendar**

Please find enclosed, as a small thank you, the EIS academic year calendar featuring artwork by talented pupils from across Scotland.

You can request additional copies of the calendar by contacting Karen Nicholson [knicholson@eis.org.uk](mailto:knicholson@eis.org.uk) at EIS HQ.