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J. Swinney

Thank you for your letters of 11 June and 6 July 2018 regarding your "It's One Team" campaign and enclosing postcards from your members in support of this. May I firstly apologise for the delay in replying to you. Your original letter and the subsequent delivery of the postcards to the Parliament have only just been notified to my officials.

The quality of education is paramount to the Scottish Government and I can assure you that we value the whole education workforce in delivering high quality education for all of Scotland's young people.

Whilst I recognise your aspirations for parity between teachers and non-teachers, these are two very different workforces with different negotiating arrangements. You will be aware that Scottish Government is not part of the pay negotiation process for local government staff other than for teachers and so this is a matter for negotiation between Unison and COSLA.

I am aware of UNISON having put their case to Mr Mackay as part of the discussions between him and the SJC unions (including UNISON) about local government pay, and I understand that Mr Mackay has also made clear in those discussions that this is a matter for negotiation between COSLA and the unions.

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have this reply published on the Unison website as an overall response to your campaign.

J. Swinney

JOHN SWINNEY

