

(9xii) **Mrs I MacKenzie**

To the Chair of the Education Committee

“Approximately 30-60 Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) in the Highlands who were apparently guaranteed a substantive post are stuck with temporary or stuck on the supply list at best. The Depute First Minister announced on 23 June that the Government would work with Councils to ensure NQTs had secure jobs this year. When will the Council offer this security to these new Teachers?”

As previously advised in the Council’s position statement released on the 9 July, the Deputy First Minister announced on 23rd June that the Scottish Government will work with local authorities to secure a teaching post for every newly qualified teacher. In Highland, we have 29 associated school groups which comprise of 203 schools spread across the region. We are working with the Scottish Government to achieve this objective.

We are still awaiting on the necessary detailed information from the Government as to how this commitment is to be met or funded by local authorities. The Highland Council is keen to access any funding available to meet this pledge which would give us additional teaching resources in terms of the educational recovery of pupils.

As of the 20 July we are still awaiting the aforementioned outstanding detailed information, which will help to inform the most efficient and effective way for the Council to proceed with this matter.

An announcement is expected from the DFM on 23rd July, which should provide more detail and will hopefully give clearer guidance to local authorities.