

**Statement from the Irish Federation of University Teachers in
Response to An Bord Snip's Report for Higher Education
16 July 2009**

This report, and, in particular, the parts of it which relate to education, will come to be regarded as one of the most short-sighted documents in Irish education history. At a time when more and more people are turning to education as an intelligent, self-enhancing alternative to unemployment, how could any group of consultants recommend a total reduction of almost seven thousand jobs in education, two thousand of them in higher education alone?

When more students are interested in staying on for postgraduate study, due to a combination of graduate unemployment and the exhortation by all commentators to build the knowledge economy, how can the Committee recommend drastic reductions in our Research Programmes and PhD Courses?

The proposal to cut funding of our Teacher Education Colleges by €5m is simply disgraceful.

It is Time for Action not Dismay

Reading the report will lead to dismay and incredulity on the part of all of those who value our Education Sector. This is natural. But dismay can cause paralysis. We must not succumb to inertia.

There is a clear onus on every one of us to act. We must loudly and decisively send out a clear message that these proposals will do irreparable damage to our Nation's future well-being.

IFUT is calling upon every one of its members to make immediate contact with their local Government TDs and tell them 'this must not happen'.

It is the duty of all who care about education, in particular those who work in education and know how it operates and what its value to society is, to stand up and be counted.

I know that IFUT members will rise to this challenge. It is time not to merely complain, but to act as well.

IFUT will arrange immediate contact with our colleague Teachers' Unions to discuss proposals for a decisive campaign of action to defeat these proposals.

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