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NEW BODY NEWS

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill (ASCL) was published on 5 February. It covers a wide range of learning and skills matters, including proposals for the School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSNB). These clauses have been the subject of a great deal of discussion with government and UNISON is seeking legal advice and the support of lobbyists to examine the fine detail and submit amendments as necessary. The UNISON group of MPs will be briefed in early March and their support will be requested for the committee stage of the Bill. UNISON has been invited to give oral evidence on the SSSNB.

At the same time, talks continue on role profiles, the working year and week and job evaluation in the Support Staff Working Group (SSWG). A small group, including a school business manager nominated by UNISON, was convened by DCSF consultants to look at different job families and school roles and an expert technical group has met to consider various job evaluation options. These are not easy exercises because of the multiplicity of job titles, the hybrid nature of many roles and the wide variation in practice at present.

The Support Staff Working Group will consider about 60 different school role profiles and UNISON will wish to consult members on them. We have established email lists for School Managers; Library Staff; Technicians; Classroom-based Staff (TAs, HLTAs, Learning support etc); Facilities staff (site managers, caretakers, cleaners, caterers) and realise that these do not cover all bases. But they are a start and we would welcome more reps, contacts, convenors, officers for each list. There is also a list for members of local social partnerships (local WAMGs) and additional members of this would be welcome. Those interested should email s.bampton@unison.co.uk, indicating which list they want to join. Further news will be reported as it happens.