

**LEARNING AND TEACHING SCOTLAND &  
HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION:**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2007 TO 31 DECEMBER 2010**

**1. Aim and Purpose**

**LEARNING AND TEACHING SCOTLAND (LTS)** and **HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION (HMIE)** share the aim of leading improvement in Scottish education, and supporting the delivery of the Scottish Government's strategic objectives. Both organisations are committed to supporting staff in education authorities, schools and other providers of educational services in promoting excellence through improving the quality of the curriculum, learning and teaching, raising levels of achievement, and enabling all learners to maximise their potential. Joint working will further strengthen the quality of evidence-based professional advice provided by both organisations to Scottish Ministers and officials.

**2. Partnership working**

In carrying out their distinctive but complementary roles, LTS and HMIE will seek to capitalise fully on opportunities to work together in order to support quality improvement, promote excellence and share best practice locally and nationally. The aims and purposes of the partnership will be realised formally through clearly defined, shared initiatives or tasks, and through informal contacts and exchanges of information.

**3. Key areas for co-operation**

Senior managers in LTS and HMIE will facilitate the deployment of all appropriate staff (eg corporate services staff, HMI national specialists, lead inspectors, district inspectors and LTS programme directors and managers, area advisers and team leaders) to ensure effective co-operation in the following areas.

3.1 Use of Inspection outcomes to target areas for national support

LTS will use the findings from inspection and review reports published by HMIE to:

- inform the development of policy, strategy and planning;
- inform decisions on the allocation of resources;
- determine the need for targeted discussion and additional support for education authorities, schools and other providers of educational services; and
- promote and disseminate best practice.

HMIE will inform LTS of the outcomes of inspections and reviews, identifying priorities for support and development. This will include highlighting aspects of excellence in provision and specification of its outstanding features, as well as indicating common weaknesses in provision which result in provision falling below the threshold of acceptable quality.

### 3.2 Joint working to deliver national strategic priorities

LTS and HMIE will work together to help build capacity in the system, and support the delivery of major national developments, particularly Curriculum for Excellence, Glow, the promotion of effective self-evaluation and the identification and dissemination of good and innovative practice.

### 3.3 Feedback of information from LTS activities to inform HMIE

LTS will share with HMIE key messages from development and support activities in all aspects of its work with education authorities, schools and other providers of educational services. The information will contribute to HMIE evaluation of the effectiveness of provision at local and national levels, and help to inform future HMIE activities.

### 3.4 Research activities

LTS and HMIE will consult and work together as appropriate on research priorities, surveys and studies on topics of shared interest (eg leadership, CPD, best value, attainment and wider achievement).

### 3.5 Co-ordination in the dissemination of good practice

LTS and HMIE will keep each other fully informed as they develop their respective plans for the dissemination of good practice and advice to the system, and will collaborate and co-ordinate activities where appropriate. This will include activities such as publications, conferences and the development of websites. In so doing, they will seek to ensure that the advice produced by both parties is consistent, coherent and well-timed. The advice will be easily accessible to users to support wide adoption.

Arrangements for joint working on the above areas will be discussed regularly with the aim of ensuring that the work of HMIE and LTS consistently promotes a common approach and understanding within each organisation.

## **4. Developing the partnership**

To strengthen the delivery of partnership working, LTS and HMIE will explore further the potential value of:

(a) establishing shared posts, through which an individual might work for both HMIE and LTS with a focus on areas of mutual priority;

(b) co-operation on the management and content of websites, with a view to adding value by combining the extensive evidence base deriving from HMIE activities with LT Scotland's communications expertise, technical expertise and on-line facilities; and

(c) enhancing the extent to which each organisation contributes and/or participates in the staff development activities of the other, within the context of resources available.

**5. Implementation and evaluation**

The provisions of this Memorandum set out the intentions of the parties as the basis of effective partnership working.

To achieve their shared agenda, LTS and HMIE jointly agree to work together and commit resources as required by the spirit of this relationship, in order to fulfil its potential.

Both parties will actively encourage and monitor progress towards the establishment of processes and the delivery of outcomes consistent with this Memorandum.

Each party will be responsible for its own costs in relation to all work and expenditure carried out in connection with this Memorandum. Each party will publish the Memorandum on their respective websites.

The effectiveness of the implementation of the vision and purposes expressed in the Memorandum will be monitored closely. An annual report will evaluate the impact of joint activities to support improvement. A review at any other time may be called for by any party to the Memorandum. Any party can cancel this Memorandum at any time, by giving all other parties one month's written notice.

**Signed**

**Signed**

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**Date**

**Date**