# NAHT launches High Court challenge against Ofsted’s new school report cards



A significant legal challenge has been initiated by the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) against Ofsted, the education inspection body in England, concerning its planned overhaul of school inspection reporting. The NAHT is seeking a judicial review from the High Court regarding the introduction of new school report cards set to launch in the autumn. This initiative follows Ofsted's decision to eliminate its previous one or two-word ratings system.

Paul Whiteman, the general secretary of NAHT, has expressed strong objections to the proposed reporting format, claiming it constitutes "another crude grading system to hang over the heads of leaders" and should be abandoned. Whiteman’s critique arises amidst growing concerns over the well-being of education staff, particularly in light of the tragic circumstances surrounding Ruth Perry, a head teacher who took her own life following an Ofsted inspection. This incident has cast a spotlight on the pressures associated with school evaluations.

The NAHT's legal action was announced as its members convened for their national conference in Harrogate on Saturday. The timing suggests an urgent response to the proposed changes, which have raised significant apprehensions within the educational community. A recent letter, co-signed by Professor Julia Waters and over 30 other prominent figures, including the general secretaries of several teaching unions, voiced worries that the impending modifications could further jeopardise the mental health of education staff, thereby adversely affecting students' educational experiences.

Responding to the legal claims, Ofsted maintains that the emphasis on supporting mental health is a crucial element of its new proposals. The organisation has categorically dismissed the union's claims, describing them as "plainly untenable". Ofsted's stance illustrates a commitment to adapting its methods while ostensibly addressing concerns about the well-being of both educators and students.

As these developments unfold, the educational landscape in England remains under scrutiny, with key stakeholders closely monitoring the potential impacts of the forthcoming changes to school inspections. The ongoing discussion highlights the tension between accountability measures for schools and the mental health implications for staff.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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