

Model letter to Governors and the Council

I/we have been made aware of the decision by Phil Weston, Chair of Governors at North Huddersfield Trust School to unilaterally dismiss Louise Lewis without following any recognised procedure. I/we learnt of Louise's reinstatement by the Governing Body in April 2021 following a prolonged suspension from the school. The Governing Body took Louise through the disciplinary process and agreed she should be reinstated despite the headteacher's attempts to dismiss her. It is clear that there are some in the leadership team of the school who do not wish to follow this process and we understand that they have refused to work with Louise despite the express wishes of the Governing Body.

I/we feel this dismissal constitutes a witch hunt against Louise who was merely carrying out her duties as an elected union representative. I/we also recognise a very strong case of unfair dismissal and race discrimination, given that Louise is the only black teacher in the school. I/we call on all members of the Governing Body to challenge this appalling case of victimisation and to demand that the original decision of the Governing Body to reinstate and reintegrate Louise back into school is upheld. I/we am/are also calling on Kirklees Council to immediately carry out an independent investigation into the actions of Mr Weston who has clearly overstepped his powers and responsibilities as Chair of Governors.

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