

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use

SIR TIM BRIGHOUSE, BRITAIN'S MOST INSPIRATIONAL EDUCATIONAL LEADER, ADDRESSES BELFAST CONFERENCE

Britain's most inspirational educational leader, Sir Tim Brighouse, the former Schools Commissioner for London, will be the keynote speaker at an education conference in Belfast tomorrow and Friday (28 and 29 October).

Sir Tim will be speaking on 'The Inclusion Agenda: Challenges for Teacher Education' at the eighth annual cross-border conference of the Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South (SCoTENS) at the Hilton Hotel.

Sir Tim Brighouse was Chief Education Officer for Birmingham in 1993-2002 and Schools Commissioner for London in 2002-2007, where he oversaw widescale increases in GCSE grades, particularly in schools in disadvantaged areas. He left behind the London Challenge, a scheme to make the city a world leader in education by offering extra support to 70 disadvantaged schools and five low-performing boroughs.

Ofsted praised "the energising and inspirational example" of his work in Birmingham, which was "an example to all others of what can be done even in the most demanding urban environment."

In 1993, while in Birmingham, he sued the then Conservative Education Secretary, John Patten, for saying he was a "madman let loose...frightening the children" and won substantial damages, which he gave to educational charities. His latest book is *How Successful Headteachers Survive and Thrive*.

He will be addressing the SCoTENS conference after dinner tomorrow night and will give his keynote address at 9 am on Friday morning.

Note to editors: The Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South (SCoTENS) brings together 38 colleges of education, university education departments, teaching and curriculum councils and other bodies involved in the training of teachers in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland. It was set up in 2003 and its secretariat is provided by the Centre for Cross Border Studies in Armagh.

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