

Thank you for sending me the draft Cabinet Report dealing with recognition issues and particularly in relation to the recognition of the GMB.

I would support the recognition of the GMB.

I do not believe this will lead to any deterioration in the relationship that UNISON has with elected members or with officers of the authority. My experience elsewhere does lead me to concur with your assertion that the process of consultation and negotiation becomes complicated where there is more than one trade union to negotiate with. This is not a major difficulty but there are few, if any, benefits accruing from such an arrangement. I do not believe, however, that such an arrangement makes the processes of consultation or negotiation less efficient. On the contrary the processes can be aided by the presence of other trades unions. I do not accept that there will be rivalries of any significance between trades unions. There may be between individuals, as there can be within a single organisation, but my experience is that trades unions have a shared objective in the workplace. In terms of your conclusion in Section 1.5 I would not support any diminution of the facility that UNISON currently has.

Eddy Coulson, UNISON Regional Officer