



David Thomas, Chair, Board of Governors

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2011

Dear Mr. Thomas,

## **1. Conflict of business interests**

### **Re: College Governor Mr. Martin Prescott**

Trade Unions officers representing staff at Barnet & Southgate College have deep concerns about the suitability of Mr. Prescott as a Governor of the College. Several public domain sources reveal that Mr. Prescott's business interests seem clearly in a conflict of interest with the College.

Mr. Prescott is the Group Managing Director of Home Training Group at 321 Chase Road, London N14 6JT, internet address: <http://hometraininggroup.co.uk/>. This appears to be a rival local provider of education services.

His business interests were an acknowledged supplier of services to the former Southgate College (see selection of references appended overleaf), contracts which could well be still in force.

In such circumstances the availability to a College Governor of sensitive business information could be inappropriate and potentially damaging to the College. We would request that Mr. Prescott's position is reviewed.

## **2. College Governors with political allegiances**

### **Re: College Governors Ms. Ann Zinkin and Mr. Martin Prescott**

While our members would support the principle of having Governors with a democratic responsibility to their electorates, it is reasonable to expect a degree of political and geographical balance. Currently there are two Enfield Councillors on the Board but we would question the desirability of both such persons representing the same political party especially as they also represent only a small part of the new College's catchment area. We would request that this situation is reviewed.

Yours sincerely,

Barnet & Southgate College Union Officers

David Armstrong,  
UCU Branch Secretary

Chris Odams,  
ATL Branch Secretary

Christalla Tsattala,  
UNISON Shop Steward

**PTO**

c.c. Marilyn Hawkins (Principal), Keith Scribbins (clerk to the Board), UCU, ATL & UNISON members

**Martin Prescott: declarations of interest (sample) in Southgate College minutes:**

1. Potential for contracts between College and his company:

[http://www.southgate.ac.uk/Governance/documents/audit/Audit%20Committee\\_minutes%2030%209%2010\\_db.pdf](http://www.southgate.ac.uk/Governance/documents/audit/Audit%20Committee_minutes%2030%209%2010_db.pdf)

2. Martin Prescott reminded members that his company was a supplier to the College.

[http://www.southgate.ac.uk/governance/documents/gov\\_body/Gov%20Body%20%20mins%2015%20July%202010.pdf](http://www.southgate.ac.uk/governance/documents/gov_body/Gov%20Body%20%20mins%2015%20July%202010.pdf)

3. Martin Prescott declared an interest in ongoing relationships with the College, none of which were under discussion at that evening's meeting:

[http://www.southgate.ac.uk/Governance/documents/gov\\_body/Southgate%20GB%20%20mins%20part%201%2019%20May%202011.pdf](http://www.southgate.ac.uk/Governance/documents/gov_body/Southgate%20GB%20%20mins%20part%201%2019%20May%202011.pdf)

3. Martin Prescott declared an interest in the delivery/tenders of apprenticeships about which he was in discussion with the College.

[http://www.southgate.ac.uk/governance/documents/gov\\_body/GB%20%20mins%20part%201%2024%2003%202011%20draft%201.pdf](http://www.southgate.ac.uk/governance/documents/gov_body/GB%20%20mins%20part%201%2024%2003%202011%20draft%201.pdf)