

LATE and NATE are separate Associations

This clarification is particularly addressed to NATE members who live in the London region and who are either on the LATE mailing list or might be interested in attending LATE events. LATE has requested a clarification statement from NATE to appear on their website, but this has not yet happened.

LATE, founded in 1947, predates NATE by sixteen years. The success of LATE's work, conferences, campaigns and publications, led to a call for a national association which with help from LATE members was set up in 1963. NATE became a charity and later, for some years, a company. LATE had always been strong on campaigning. Those of you interested in LATE campaigns should read Simon Gibbons' history of LATE (IOE Press 2013 ISBN 978-1-85856-520-0). Since charities are not permitted to campaign, an elegant solution was developed. LATE became a corporate member of NATE. LATE members were encouraged to join NATE by adding an extra fee to their LATE membership which was passed on to the national association.

As time passed the cost of joining NATE grew larger than joining LATE. The committee are still researching the history, which is not clear, but at some point the roles were reversed. NATE started to pay a small amount to LATE for every NATE member who lived in the London area. One of the aims of LATE became to participate in the work of the National Association. However there were still many members of LATE who did not belong to NATE. LATE continued to operate independently and in the nineties and noughties was very active in running a national anti-SATS campaign - something that NATE would never have been allowed to do and for which at the time they were most grateful. LATE also continued to run conferences including a yearly residential conference.

Therefore it came a shock last April when NATE sent LATE Chair a solicitor's letter stating that as a branch of NATE we should close our bank account, move all our funds to the national association and be subject to Charity Commission rules. Rather than fight this, which would have effectively cost us our funds, we decided to let NATE have our surplus funds in return for their acknowledging our independence. LATE aims to keep running conferences, but we will have to do so very economically until we have a float in the bank. We would be grateful if NATE members could press NATE management to publish their clarification of the relationship between the two associations and ensure that the LATE funds now with NATE are used efficiently to promote the work of all English teachers.