

SEPTEMBER 2013

Education Oral Questions

Monday 9th September

[Kelvin Hopkins \(Luton North\) \(Lab\):](#)

What his policy is on the use of unqualified teachers in schools.[900162]

[The Secretary of State for Education \(Michael Gove\):](#)

Head teachers are best placed to make staffing judgments in individual schools.

[Kelvin Hopkins:](#)

Under Government changes, more than half of all secondary schools can now employ unqualified teachers on a permanent basis, yet the Tory manifesto of 2010 stated:

“The single most important thing for a good education is for every child to have access to a good teacher. We will take steps to enhance the status of the teaching profession”.

Is it not now clear that the Government are going in precisely the opposite direction?

[Michael Gove:](#)

I am grateful to the hon. Gentleman for giving me the opportunity to point out that the proportion of postgraduate trainees in every subject, including non-target subjects, who have a 2:1 or higher degree, or a comparable overseas degree, has risen in each of the last three years. Teachers in our state schools are better qualified than ever.

[Mr Julian Brazier \(Canterbury\) \(Con\):](#)

I strongly welcome my right hon. Friend's robust answer. Does he agree that the people who are qualified to teach maths might in fact be those with good maths degrees, rather than teaching qualifications, and will he commend the **university of Oxford** for including teaching in schools as a possible module in its maths course?

MPs debate manufacturing and SME's

Wednesday 4th September

Chris White (Warwick and Leamington) (Con): I thank my hon. Friend the Member for Carlisle (John Stevenson) for securing this important debate and giving us another opportunity to discuss this topic, as we have done over many years.

One of my concerns, given the welcome news about the upturn in growth in the UK economy, is that politicians—and we are politicians in this Chamber—may move away from

a focus on manufacturing and the good results that it could produce for the rebalancing of the economy. We could move back to property booms and financial services, which I think all those present would agree would be a very bad thing. We have a window of opportunity to establish policies to get manufacturing growing strongly once more.

The key is small and medium-sized businesses. The Government need to take steps now to prevent manufacturing from being neglected as growth returns to the economy. They need to ensure that incentives are set up for lenders to support our manufacturers, rather than pouring investment into quick returns in sectors such as property or financial services.

One of the simplest and easiest ways to get support to those manufacturers is through changes to capital allowances. The Chancellor rightly increased the annual investment allowance, which will enable them to upgrade plant and equipment in the next two years. However, if we are to attract more significant manufacturing activity, and enable small and medium-sized businesses to integrate into supply chains, we need to make the capital allowance structure more competitive, and encourage larger manufacturers to base themselves in the UK, which will in turn help the small and medium-sized businesses.

According to the **Oxford university** centre for business taxation, the present value of capital allowances as a percentage of cost for capital investment is just 46.5% in the UK. That is lower than in Japan, Germany, the United States, Turkey, France, South Korea and virtually all our major competitors. It makes investing in the UK far more expensive for manufacturing businesses than it is elsewhere, and we should not be surprised that, despite a strong skills base and depreciation in sterling, manufacturers are still not flocking as quickly as they might.