

Hardip Begol
Acting Director, Curriculum and general Qualifications Reform
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3 BT

27 January 2012

Dear Hardip,

Re: National Curriculum Review

Thank you for your letter dated 4 January addressing our concerns about the process of the National Curriculum Review. We were pleased to hear that the Review has been extended by a year and that it will now be developed alongside the GCSE reform. However, we hope that, with a more generous (but still tight) schedule, the review process can be improved based on the experience of last summer's meetings. I am writing to outline some changes that we would recommend to ensure that the Review process operates as efficiently as possible and results in a National Curriculum that promotes high quality teaching and learning of the sciences.

We had a very useful discussion with members of your team at the SCORE Committee meeting on 23 January 2012. Stefano Pozzi, Rebecca Rylatt and Warren Sharp from the Department provided an update on the Review and outlined how SCORE may wish to engage in these next stages. In the first instance, SCORE will provide a response to the Expert Panel Group's recommendations on the framework for the National Curriculum.

In the discussion we urged the Department to consider the following suggestions for the next stages of the Review:

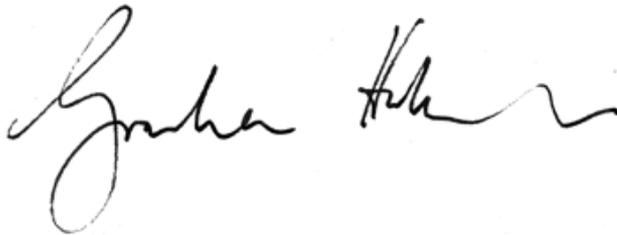
- The drafters for each of the Programmes of Study must be overseen and advised by people with subject expertise and a good knowledge of the school system. This group of subject experts must have a clear remit (unlike the informal advisory groups set up for the sciences in the latter half of last year) and be linked into and formally recognised within the review structure. We would expect these subject experts to include practising teachers.
- We believe that the three professional bodies for the sciences (Institute of Physics, Royal Society of Chemistry and Society of Biology), together with the other SCORE partner organisations, The Association for Science Education and the Royal Society, have an important role to play in being a part of the group and recommending other

members. Furthermore any Programme of Study for the sciences should have the support of these organisations prior to publication.

- The process should be transparent. Any meeting taking place between the subject experts and the drafters for the Programmes of Study should be formally minuted. This will ensure the rationale for any changes to the draft Programmes of Study is captured.

SCORE continues to support the aims of the National Curriculum Review, and we remain committed to seeing it through. We also feel we can contribute significantly to its development and look forward to hearing from your team in the near future with regards to the next steps.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Hutchings', written in a cursive style.

Professor Graham Hutchings FRS
SCORE Chair

Cc Jacquie Spatcher and Stefano Pozzi (Department for Education)