

Professor Graham Hutchings FRS
Chair
SCORE
6-9 Carlton House Terrace
London
SW1Y 5AG

21 February 2012

Dear Graham

National Curriculum Review

Many thanks for your letter dated 27th January, regarding the next stages of the review. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to respond to the Expert Panel report on behalf of SCORE. We very much welcome the views of the SCORE partners on the recommendations put forward by the Expert Panel on the framework for the National Curriculum and what this means for science.

Thank you for your three suggestions about the process for the review going forward. I agree that it is important that the drafting process for the Programmes of Study incorporates advice from people with subject expertise and a good knowledge of the school system. You will be aware that we have recently asked a small group of science experts to provide their confidential opinion on the current draft of the new Programme of Study for primary science, before we consider the next steps in development. A similar process is underway on mathematics and will soon be followed by English. We have also shared the list of those being asked to contribute at this stage, which I attach, in order to ensure transparency. You will see the involvement of experts from the professional bodies and individuals, including teachers, suggested by the organisations.

In discussing the primary draft with subject experts we have been clear about who developed the draft and how it was developed. I hope that the letter, sent out by officials to accompany the draft, clearly sets out how this initial process will work and the requirements at this stage.

The outcome of this initial work with subject experts will inform arrangements going forward. You should be reassured that following this initial process we envisage extensive public consultation before the Programme of Study for science is finalised. I welcome your continuing support for the aims of the review and your commitment to seeing it through. Once we have the next steps and a timetable agreed I would be happy to share them with you. I will ensure that my colleagues discuss a provisional timetable with the SCORE secretariat, to make sure you have sufficient planning time.

I am pleased to say that Matt White has recently started as the Assistant Director with responsibility for science. He has previously worked closely with the SCORE secretariat on other aspects of science education. I suggest that Matt and I meet you, at your earliest convenience, on any further matters arising.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hardip Begol', written in a cursive style.

Hardip Begol
Acting Director, Curriculum and General Qualifications Reform

CC: Tom Goldman, Rebecca Rylatt and Matthew White