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Greg Clark MP Minister for Universities and Science 1 Victoria Street London SW1H0ET

30 July 2014

Dear Mr Clark,

I am writing as Chair of SCORE to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Universities and Science.

SCORE comprises the Association for Science Education, the Institute of Physics, the Royal Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Society of Biology. As a partnership of experts in science education, SCORE provides government and its agencies with independent advice on science education policy, including issues such as assessment, curriculum, qualifications, the teacher workforce and participation in biology, chemistry and physics.

In the last year SCORE priorities have included:

- providing independent feedback on the science content in the review of the National Curriculum programmes of study and GCSE criteria
- conducting research into the mathematical content of the sciences at A-level which has been taken into account by Ofqual as part of the A-level content review
- launching research findings on the resourcing of practical science in primary and secondary schools that demonstrated worrying variation in the availability of resources required by them to meet minimum requirements for practical work in science
- working with a unified voice with partners in the STEM education community to advocate the retention of practical science assessment in the final A-level grade

SCORE believes science education should encourage all students in their studies of the sciences, whether this is to inform future citizens or the next generation of science-based professionals. We would welcome a meeting with you to discuss our work, and how we might be of further assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Professor Julia Buckingham

Ihla Brelsughan

SCORE Chair