

Mr Greg Clark MP
Minister for Universities and Science
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

9 September 2014

Dear Mr Clark,

As you may recall, I wrote to you in July on behalf of SCORE, to welcome you to your new role and express SCORE's wish to assist you where possible on matters relating to science education in schools.

You will know that your predecessor led a meeting with SCORE in July about issues related to teacher training and the pipeline of suitably qualified science teachers. This meeting was also attended by Elizabeth Truss and David Laws, Madeleine Atkins (Chief Executive of HEFCE) and representatives of the National College for Teaching and Leadership. We covered a good deal of ground but gave particular consideration to the possibility of more universities offering degree courses in STEM subjects with the opportunity for students to integrate teacher training into their undergraduate degree programme and obtain Qualified Teacher Status with their science degree on graduation. The outcome of this meeting was that Mr Willetts indicated that he would liaise with Ms Truss to see if more funding could be found to support these innovative courses. It was agreed that there should be a follow-up meeting of the group in the autumn.

I am writing now to seek your views on how we can take forward this important action following the ministerial reshuffle. I understand the Institute of Physics is already working with the Department for Education to establish an integrated course for physics. I am sure you share our concerns about the shortage of science teachers in England, and wish, like us, to explore more ways of making sure more young people are taught by specialists in chemistry, physics and biology. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Julia Buckingham
SCORE Chair

CC Rt Hon David Laws MP and **Nick Gibb MP**