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Baroness Delyth Morgan

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families

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Sir Alan Wilson
SCORE
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LONDON
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15th April 2010

Dear Sir Alan

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State of 30 March expressing your concerns over the development of the new GCSE science specifications. The Secretary of State has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I do of course share your concern that the new science GCSEs must be high quality qualifications which command the support of the subject community. SCORE have a key role to play in ensuring that this is the case and I know that both QCDA and Ofqual have been keen to engage effectively with you throughout the process. It is disappointing, therefore, to hear that you have concerns about the way in which the process is being managed.

The detailed issues which you raise are matters for QCDA and Ofqual, to whom I understand you have copied your letter, and I know that Chris Trinick has already written on behalf of QCDA expressing his concern about the points you raise and suggesting a meeting to discuss how QCDA and SCORE can work more effectively together. Given the importance of these issues, I am also asking QCDA to liaise with Ofqual and report back to my officials on the action they propose to take to address your concerns. If, following your meeting with QCDA, you would find it helpful to discuss the issues directly with officials in the Department, please contact Jeremy Benson at jeremy.benson@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. However, I must stress that some of the issues you raise relate to Ofqual's exercise of its regulatory powers and you will appreciate that Ofqual is now an independent body reporting to Parliament rather than Ministers.

I am copying this letter to Chris Trinick at QCDA and to Kathleen Tattersall at Ofqual.

Yours
Delyth Morgan
DELYTH MORGAN



department for
children, schools and families