

*Chair*

Professor Michael Totterdell, BA, MA, MID, PGCE

*Executive Director*

James Rogers, MA, FRSA

*Honorary Life-President*

Mary J Russell, MBE, DEd, DLitt

Whittington House

19-30 Alfred Place

London WC1E 7EA

T: 020 7580 8000

F: 020 7323 0577

E: [j.rogers@ucet.ac.uk](mailto:j.rogers@ucet.ac.uk)

W: [www.ucet.ac.uk](http://www.ucet.ac.uk)

13 September 2007

David Eastwood  
Chief Executive  
HEFCE  
Northavon House  
Coldharbour Lane  
Bristol BS16 1QD

Dear Mr. Eastwood

## **New Higher Education funding incentives 2008-11**

I am writing to you about the recent decision that HEFCE funding will no longer be available in respect of students studying for qualifications that are at lower or equivalent levels to those they already hold. I have already had some helpful discussions with your colleague Anna Sherratt about this. This letter constitutes our formal comments on the detail of the funding changes.

We understand the Government's reluctance to fund repeat qualifications. We do, however, think that an exception should be made for professionally related qualifications for teachers and other professionals working with children and young people.

One exception relates to teachers and other education professionals seeking professionally relevant Masters' and doctoral level qualifications. Recent reports<sup>1</sup> have identified the positive impact Masters' level programmes can have on the retention of teachers and on their commitment, self-confidence and innovation. While some of this is funded by the TDA and will not be affected by the changes, a significant amount does fall under the HEFCE remit. For example, programmes for teachers in the post-compulsory sector are HEFCE funded, as are those for professionals working with children and young people generally and for whom, in the context of Every Child Matters, the availability of relevant and focused Masters' level work is highly desirable.

---

<sup>1</sup> E.g. TDA PPD evaluation impact report, 2007, OFSTED report 2004 and Soulsby & Swain report 2003.

The value of teachers and other education professionals undertaking professionally focused Masters' level work has been acknowledged within government. For example, in his Mansion House speech of 20 June, Gordon Brown drew unfavourable comparisons between the number of teachers in the UK with Masters' degrees and those in other countries. The DCSF has also invited UCET (albeit with no commitment) to submit proposals for a pilot project to allow the range of professionals working with children and young people to collectively undertake Masters' level study in order to help implement the Government's Every Child Matters agenda.

There are a number of other concerns that we have:

- Students with M level PGCEs might not attract funding if they then go on to a full HEFCE funded Masters' degree relating to either their subject area or to their professional practice (depending how "level" is defined");
- PGCE or equivalent programmes for teachers in the post-compulsory sector (which are not TDA funded) might not attract funding as they will often have an initial qualification that is at a higher level than the PGCE itself; and
- Progression from MAMSc to M Phil programmes might be at risk.

I would be grateful if the above points could be given careful consideration before any final decisions about the detailed implementation of the new policy are made. I would be happy to attend a meeting if you would find that helpful.

I am writing in similar terms to John Denham and to Lord Adonis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rogers'.

James Rogers