

14 February 2019

Rt. Hon Anne Milton MP  
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT

Dear Minister,

**Teacher education for the learning and skills sector**

I am writing to thank you for taking the time to meet with me on 12 February to discuss teacher education in the FE and skills sector. I thought that it would be helpful to record some of the things that we discussed.

Initial Teacher Education (ITE) delivered by universities working in partnership with colleges is, as I explained, subject to regular inspection by OFSTED on the same basis as ITE for teachers in schools. There is however a lot of provision that is not inspected and so is not subject to the same level of quality control. While some of that training may be of a high standard, there is no way of telling whether or not it is as good as that delivered through HEI-college partnerships (all of which is rated either 'good' or 'outstanding'). In the light of this, it was agreed that your officials would consider the scope for introducing a more consistent regulatory framework across all types of provider.

UCET has publicly welcomed the schoolteacher recruitment and retention strategy published by DFE on 28 March, but we are concerned that the same level of support will not be available in respect of teachers in post-compulsory. We are however to some extent reassured that references to 'other sectors' in the strategy do provide scope to consider the needs of post-compulsory teachers and we look forward to working with you to develop options.

We are of course extremely disappointed by the recent decision to withdraw bursary and SKE funding, something which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on recruitment. We hope that alternative measures to encourage recruitment into this vital sector can be identified.

Yours sincerely,

James Noble-Rogers  
Executive Director  
UCET