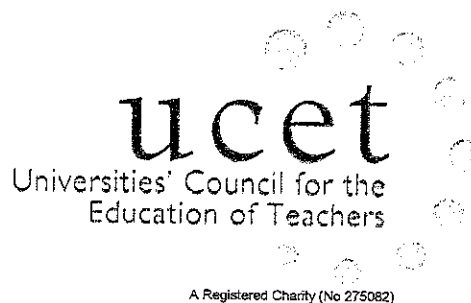


*Promoting Quality in Teacher
Education*



17 January 2018

Mrs Mary Madden & Mr Shane O'Neill
Joint Secretaries
North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat
58 Upper English Street
Armagh
BT61 7LG

Dear Mrs Madden and Mr O'Neil,

Funding for SCoTENS

I am writing on behalf of the members of UCET NI (the HEIs involved in teacher education) to express concern about decision to withdraw of funding from the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS), a successful cross-border body which has been in place since 2002. While I fully recognise current budgetary constraints, this decision does need to be reviewed because of the impact that it will have on teacher education and education research, areas that have been identified as priorities both sides of the border for many years.

Teaching is the profession which produces all others and is therefore a worthy focus for funding which seeks to improve the evidence base for the learning which is at the core of all successful economies. Building cross-border networks is a challenging, long term process and SCoTENS has worked effectively to support capacity building for teacher education research for some 15 years, in three key areas of activity:

- Seed funding for cross border research projects (c. 10 per year which must have both northern and southern partners) and which have kick started many research partnerships, publications and projects
- An annual conference which brings key expert speakers to the island and supports collaboration
- A cross border student teacher exchange

SCoTENS is funded by members' fees and also, crucially, by the joint funding from DE and DfE in Belfast. This joint governmental funding, and the attendance of ministers and senior civil servants at annual conferences has underpinned the processes which have nurtured the productive and dynamic cross-border cooperation. The work of SCoTENS also supports

UCET 9-11 Endsleigh Gardens London WC1H 0EH

T: 020 7388 2388

F: 020 7388 6988
W: www.ucet.ac.uk

E: info@ucet.ac.uk

government priorities.

We have made representations to officials in Belfast about this issue. Their view is that a decision to continue with funding cannot be made in the absence of ministers in Northern Ireland. Our view, however, is that a decision to make a change with such a particularly significant impact should not be made in the absence of said ministers.

I would be happy to provide further information, and to meet with you, if you would find that helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Noble-Rogers' followed by a stylized flourish.

James Noble-Rogers
Executive Director