FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

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Dear Professor Eaton

Thank you for your letter of 10 May 2024, regarding the Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) with International Qualified Teacher Status (iQTS), that is now being offered in Northern Ireland.

Whilst I acknowledge the concerns you may have, as you have stated, the iQTS qualification has been developed by the Department for Education (DfE) in England and is being delivered by a number of English Universities. It has no links whatsoever with the Department of Education (DE) in Northern Ireland and DE has no role to play in its programme delivery.

I understand that the iQTS qualification has already been discussed with DE officials through various forums / working groups and I would view this as the most appropriate mechanism for future dialogue on this issue. Officials remain open to further discussions and to listen to any new concerns you may have.

I also understand that through these forums / working groups, Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers here have been asked by officials to explore the possibility of developing their own alternative, more flexible, ITE offerings and I believe this would be a positive step for the benefit of people living in Northern Ireland wishing to enter the teaching profession.

Thank you, once again, for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely



Paul Givan MLA
Minister of Education