



2018-0033488POAM

Rt Hon Anne Milton MP

Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

James Noble-Rogers
Executive Director, UCET
9-11 Endsleigh Gardens
London
WC1H 0EH

24 August 2018

Dear Mr Noble - Rogers

Thank you very much for your letter of 7 August, about the quality of teaching qualifications for those teaching in further education (FE) institutions.

I appreciate your concerns and am grateful to you for drawing these specific issues to my attention. I very much share UCET's ambition to make sure that teacher training in all parts of the education system is of the very highest quality. The quality of initial teacher education (ITE) programmes in the FE sector is crucial to making sure that new teachers are equipped to support learners to achieve to the best of their abilities. The success of our ambition to put technical education in England on par with the best in the world, hinges on the quality of teachers and teaching in the sector.

As you know, Ofsted inspects FE ITE programmes validated by higher education institutions under the published inspection framework for ITE. To access public funding, ITE programmes offered by other providers must meet Ofqual's conditions of recognition, including arrangements for quality assurance, which I understand is the area of greatest concern for you.

You will be aware that the FE sector has undergone several changes in recent years with regard to issues of teacher qualification requirements and the regulation of teacher training. Whilst I am keen to avoid any intervention that represents any unnecessary change, I want to work with the sector and its representative bodies to make sure that we are confident about the quality and consistency of training for teachers in the FE sector, regardless of the channel through which it is delivered.

Department officials are actively looking at FE teacher recruitment and retention, with a specific focus on the quality and delivery of teacher training and qualifications. This work is exploring how we can be certain that qualifications like the Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training (DET) offer consistently high-quality training and preparation for all FE teachers. I know that you and your colleagues at UCET have very helpfully engaged with this work, and I am grateful to you for sharing your expertise.

These are, of course, systemic issues which cannot be resolved easily or quickly, but I am acutely aware of how critical they are to the quality and credibility of FE teaching. With this in mind, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you for a further discussion, and to hear your ideas on possible next steps. Please contact my diary manager, Zach Lloyd, at: Milton-DIARY.PS@education.gov.uk, who will be pleased to arrange a mutually convenient time.

I hope this reply is helpful, and I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Best as

Anne M.P.

Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills