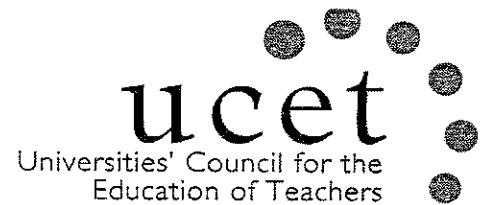




The National Association of
School-Based Teacher Trainers



Promoting Quality in Teacher Education

A Registered
Charity (No 275082)

27 February 2018

Rt. Hon Damien Hinds
Secretary of State for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London. SW1P 3BT

Dear Secretary of State,

Teacher supply and the reform of QTS

We are writing on behalf of all accredited HEI and SCITT teacher education providers to express our continued concern about teacher shortages and difficulties in recruiting students to programmes of initial teacher education.

We wholeheartedly applaud some of the recent measures that DFE has taken to address the problem such as the relaxation of rules relating to pre-entry skills tests for ITE applicants and the extension of open recruitment to most ITE programmes for a further year. Other measures that could be taken include:

- removing skills test requirements altogether (they add little or no value, and cost a great deal of money);
- diverting a greater portion of bursary funding into retention incentives;
- allowing ITE providers greater flexibility in the handling and cross-referring of individual ITE applications within partnerships.

We also support the broad thrust of the proposals outlined in December's consultation on 'strengthening QTS and improving career progression for teachers'. Although both UCET and NASBTT have expressed constructive concerns about some of the detail, we have applauded the emphasis given to the early professional development of teachers, the recognition of the value to teachers of studying at Master's degree level and increased support for mentoring and coaching. We would urge you to continue with this. Improving professional development for teachers will help to attract new recruits, help retain existing teachers in the profession and supplement the excellent training NQTs will have received through their ITE.

Yours sincerely,

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