



Cabinet Office

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Minister for Universities,
Science and Cities



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

1 Victoria Street
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Our ref: MCD2014/24284

Sir Peter Luff MP
House of Commons
London
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19 November 2014

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 29 May to David Willetts, about a letter which you understood had been sent by Professor Stephen Martin on behalf of the English Learning and Sustainability Alliance regarding the sustainability work of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). We have no record of receiving your letter on the 29 May and we appreciate that you have taken the time to follow up on this matter.

I hope that you and Professor Martin and others involved with English Learning and Sustainability Alliance will share my delight in the recent favourable verdict on HEFCE's work in the area of sustainability by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation in its report "Shaping the Future We Want. Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-14)".

I understand that United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation concluded that HEFCE has provided leadership, resources and targets for whole-institutional change towards sustainability during the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. In 2008, HEFCE produced a strategy and action plan for the higher education sector which provided a framework for sustainable development relevant to the areas of carbon management and estates, curriculum, student engagement and community outreach. Funding was awarded on a competitive basis to some universities to embed sustainability as a whole-of-institution concern. Through grant letters, it can be argued that HEFCE has influenced higher education bodies to identify the Education for Sustainable Development as a key priority, resulting in investment and activity across the sector. More recently, HEFCE has partnered with the National Union of Students and funded £5 million to support student engagement and learning in education for sustainability across 25 institutions in England. HEFCE's influence has been far-reaching and can explain the depth and quality of progress in this area in England but also indirectly across Wales and Scotland.

I very much look forward to working together on the English Learning and Sustainability Alliance.

Yours ever,

THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP