

29th January 2013

Sir Alan Langlands
Chief Executive
The Higher Education Funding Council of England
Northavon House
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1QD

Dear Sir Alan,

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING FOR 2013-14

The Society for the Environment is a Chartered Body which licenses its professional partners to award the title Chartered Environmentalist, a postgraduate level qualification denoting environmental professionalism across a wide range of sectors. Our partners include many of the major professional bodies with a combined membership of some 400,000.

The letter of 11 January from the Secretary of State and the Minister for Universities and Science continues the priority that has been accorded to sustainable development in the Higher Education Sector. We are particularly pleased to see Ministers' expectation (paragraph 28) that there will be a new sustainability development framework, and that it should build, among other things, on the enthusiasm of students. This recognition that student learning is an important component in improving the sustainability of the sector is welcome. All of us wish to see a greater element of sustainability throughout the higher education sector, and joining up the educational and management roles of HEIs is an obvious step. To quote the Department for Energy and Climate Change:

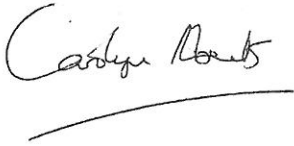
"A changing climate will bring fundamental changes to the UK economy and society... Skills will be needed to build adaptive capacity and take adaptive action. Building adaptive capacity across society will require further research on the adaptive skills needed in the long term, and will demand a response by schools, colleges, universities and professional associations as well as governments. It is clear that the scale and pace of change we could face is unprecedented."

We should be very happy to help in the development of the new framework.

We also note the section of the letter dealing with improved efficiency in the HE sector, in particular paragraph 26, which lists energy use and asset utilisation as contributors to this. In fact there are many aspects of the sustainability agenda that can help to secure better value for money, and our partner organisations would be happy to work with higher education institutions to explore them.



We strongly support Ministers' emphasis on sustainable development, and would urge HEFCE to give full weight to it in order to benefit the HEIs themselves, their students and the wider national interest.



CAROLYN ROBERTS FRGS FIEEnvSc FCIWEM
C.WEM CEnv CSci SFHEA
Chair



ALEX GALLOWAY CVO HonFSE
Chief Executive

Supported by:

PETER HOLLOWAY
Arboricultural Organisation

FRANCESCA BERRIMAN MBE
Chartered Institute of Architectural
Technologists

NICK REEVES OBE
Chartered Institution of Water and
Environmental Management

SARAH BEACOCK
Energy Institute

RICHARD COOKSLEY
Institute of Agricultural Management

SALLY HAYNS MIEEM
Institute of Ecology and Environmental
Management

MARTIN BAXTER
Institute of Environmental Management and
Assessment

LYNN COOPER
Institute of Water

CHRISTOPHER R WHETNALL CEnv IEng
HonFIAgrE HonFSE
Institution of Agricultural Engineers

DAVID LLOYD-ROACH
Institution of Civil Engineers

LIBBY BRODHURST
Institution of Engineering Designers

PROFESSOR WILLIAM POPE
Institution of Environmental Sciences

NICK JONES
Society of Operations Engineers