



From Dr Barrie Hopson, Chairman of the Quality in Careers Consortium Board  
<http://www.careersengland.org.uk/quality.php?page=consortium-board>

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**To Graham Stuart, MP, Chair of the House of Commons Education Select Committee**  
c.c. to the Chair of the National Careers Council and to Clare Jones (Department for Education)

28th February, 2013

Dear Mr Stuart

### **Careers Guidance for Young People**

At the meeting of the Quality in Careers Consortium Board last week we discussed the Government's current policy on careers guidance for young people. We considered the educational context in which your Select Committee's report has made sound recommendations for actions to ameliorate the evident deficiencies in the current circumstances. We noted the progress of the Ofsted thematic review and the commitment of Ofsted to consider giving a higher priority to the inspection of careers guidance within its proposed revision of the inspection framework this autumn.

From our distinctive position as the Consortium overseeing the national Quality in Careers Standard, we endorse fully your Select Committee's recommendations in respect of the three-pronged approach to quality assurance. We also look forward to working with colleagues in Ofsted once the thematic review is completed and recommendations are forthcoming. Our view is that, taken together, the Select Committee report and the Ofsted report will represent a significant milestone in the policy for careers education and guidance in this session of Parliament. This should offer the opportunity for the Department for Education to accept the need to redress the deficiencies created by the 'regrettable' decision in the Education Act 2011 to place schools in the position of deciding how to discharge their duty to secure independent careers guidance for young people - with no additional funding being allocated for this, and with insufficient quality assurance requirements being put in place.

Knowing that the Secretary of State will be responding (by 22<sup>nd</sup> March) to you with his views on your report and its recommendations, our Consortium Board resolved that I should write to you welcoming your report and assuring you that you can depend upon us adding our weight to the calls for the Select Committee's recommendations in respect of quality assurance to be implemented.

We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that all young people in England receive careers education and guidance of consistently high quality, and send our very best wishes to you and your colleagues on the Select Committee.

Yours ever

Dr Barrie Hopson  
Chairman of the Consortium Board for The Quality in Careers Consortium