

7 March 2008

Consultation Unit (Confidence in Standards)
Area 1A, Castle View House
Runcorn
Cheshire WA7 2GJ

Dear Sir/Madam

DEA Response to the Consultation on 'Confidence in Standards'

We welcome the creation of the independent regulatory authority. However, we are very concerned that the remaining part of QCA will no longer be an 'authority' but will be downgraded to a 'development agency'.

QCA has been valued by educationalists for the expertise of QCA staff in developing the curriculum. It is not appropriate that civil servants in DCSF should define the curriculum.

We are keen that the curriculum be developed democratically and believe that the consultation arrangements within QCA have proved effective and inclusive. We are concerned that transferring power to the DCSF will make the process less democratic and inclusive and more short term focused.

In response to question 12 about the proposed changes to the arrangements for consultation, we are concerned that everything possible is done to ensure inclusive consultation processes with realistic timescales. We'd particularly like to point out that representative bodies need more time to respond and need notice of consultations.

DEA is a 'representative body' for the purposes of this consultation. It is an educational charity with organisational members and promotes education for a just and sustainable world.

Yours faithfully

Hetan Shah
Chief Executive