



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
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*Ruth Thompson*

I am writing to inform you that it is my intention to announce tomorrow that Partnerships for Schools (PfS) will be wound up and its functions transferred to the Department for Education policy directorates and the Education Funding Agency (EFA), an executive agency of the Department, by April 2012. This announcement will take the form of a written ministerial statement. I have taken this decision as part of Government wide review into arms length bodies (ALBs) and the desire to rationalise the number of ALBs for which this Department is responsible.

I want to thank you, your board members and all the staff in PfS for their work and achievements so far. I am particularly grateful to you for your support and advice on Academies and Free Schools, contributing to the success of these priority reforms. I have heard much positive feedback about the support and service you have provided on these key Coalition Government's key policies.

It is important that the work of PfS continues at pace and uninterrupted. To that end, I know that Department officials and your staff have already begun to engage on ensuring this transfer to the EFA is as smooth and seamless as possible.

I hope my announcement tomorrow will confirm my appreciation of the work that you

have done so far. I want to close by thanking you for your leadership so far and I would be very grateful if you would now lead the transition for PfS to these new arrangements. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Handwritten signature of Michael Gove, consisting of a stylized 'M' and 'G' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

MICHAEL GOVE