



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State

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6th November 2013

Dr Christine Blower

Many thanks for your letter of 21 October.

As I have made clear, I am very happy to meet with you to continue our frank and cordial discussions. I will meet with you as many times as would be helpful to you.

I am fully committed to resolving your trade disputes and have offered a programme of talks. A programme of talks would focus on the implementation of policy, given that the direction of policy on pay and pensions is fixed following full consultation.

As the implementation of policy affects the whole of the teaching profession, I want to ensure that all members of the profession are represented in any talks. It is only right therefore that we involve ATL, NAHT, ASCL, Voice and Edapt as equal participants. This will help ensure that all are represented fairly, and striking unions do not have any unfair advantage over other organisations which have not taken strike action.

The programme of talks will be mainly official led, in order to cover the kind of detail which will allow meaningful discussion, but I will be involved closely throughout. I suggest we meet initially to kick off the talks and discuss what we hope to achieve.

My officials will be in touch shortly to arrange a mutually convenient time and date for your organisations, as well as the other representative organisations. I look forward to continuing our discussions shortly.

*with every good wish,
-sue-*

MICHAEL GOVE

Mr