



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State

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DS MK,

RE: Reform of geography A level

Thank you for your letter of 4 February recommending a delay to the first teaching of geography A level from September 2015 to 2016, due to a number of issues about the proposed content that means further work is required.

I accept your recommendation to delay the introduction of geography A level to allow time to consider necessary changes, in particular to ensure that the level of challenge is high enough. The Russell Group of universities has established the A level Content Advisory Board (ALCAB) to advise on the content of reformed A levels in facilitating subjects for first teaching in September 2016. As geography is a facilitating subject, I will ask Professor Nigel Thrift, Vice-Chancellor of Warwick University and chair of ALCAB, to advise on the content of reformed geography A level, with input from subject experts, including the Royal Geographical Society and Geographical Association.

I look forward to receiving your full recommendations once the reconvened A level awarding organisations' review panel meetings have concluded.

Y-s.

MICHAEL GOVE