

Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
20 Great Smith St
London
SW1P 3BT

Cc Minister Quince

Monday 18 July 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Request for suspension of the future curriculum body

We the undersigned are writing to request the Department for Education reconsiders its radical plans for an arms-length future curriculum body due to a lack of evidence and of due scrutiny, exacerbated by current political uncertainty.

All the current evidence indicates that the Department is pursuing a major market intervention into the school resources market which teachers neither want nor need. Teachers repeatedly say their priorities are more funding, initial training and CPD. The creation of a new Arm's Length Body (ALB) should be a policy of last resort and there has been no assessment of need or projected future impact on either the commercial market or teacher choice.

We wholeheartedly support the Department's desire to stimulate the development of curriculum expertise for teachers and to support them in accelerating education recovery. However, ALBs are an expensive use of already strained public money. They also remove responsibility from ministers, handing it to unelected officials and thus reducing accountability. We assert that this process has not been thought through and comes with a significant amount of risk politically and to the wider school system.

The UK's education resources industry creates world-class materials which empower teachers and enable students to get the most out of their education. It supports thousands of creators and authors

across the UK, many of whom are teachers. It is also an export success story and an area of genuine competitive advantage for the UK abroad, contributing to our soft power.

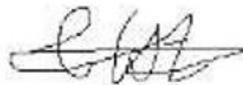
The current proposals risk fundamentally undermining this ecosystem and we ask the government to pause these proposals and resultant procurement processes in order to properly consult with stakeholders, to assess need, and to find an end point which achieves a more proportionate and sustainable future for Oak National Academy's assets, while allowing the flourishing and competitive education resources market to continue to offer choice in quality resources for schools. We believe this compromise is possible with engagement and dialogue.

In light of the above, combined with the ongoing political uncertainty, we call upon you to suspend the creation of this ALB. We urge you to seek engagement with our sector to find a more proportionate approach that better delivers on the Department's policy aims and avoids the collapse of the commercial education resources sector to the detriment of all those people involved in it and supported by it, including teachers and learners.

Yours sincerely,



Dan Conway, CEO
Publishers Association



Caroline Wright, Director General
British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA)



Nicola Solomon, Chief Executive
Society of Authors (SoA)



Barbara Ann Hayes, Deputy Chief Executive
Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS)



Sarah Faulder, Chief Executive
Publishers' Licensing Services (PLS)



Mat Pflieger, Chief Executive
Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)