

John Hayes, MP  
 Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning  
 Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
 1 Victoria Street  
 London SW1H 0ET

18<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Dear John

Many thanks for your letter dated 22nd December 2010. Since then nearly three months have passed. We remain deeply concerned about the lack of progress regarding a transition plan for the career guidance element of the Connexions service, securing the funding for current delivery and for the development of the new all-age careers service.

I understand that members of the BIS/DfE Advisory Group for the AACCS have likewise expressed their concerns, in strong terms. Connexions services at a local level continue to be shut down, some even as of the end of this month. Estimates show that up to 2 million young people could be without career IAG services this year.

There remains a lack of guidance from DfE/BIS to local authorities that:

- their statutory duty to provide funding for Connexions remains until this responsibility is actually transferred;
- the funding for career IAG to young people should be allocated from within the funding given to local authorities;
- transition arrangements will be issued shortly to ameliorate the current uncertainties.

Again I must stress that the UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum welcomes the establishment of the new all-age careers service in England. But the current uncertainties may jeopardise the effectiveness of the future careers service if the loss of talented and committed careers advisers is allowed to continue.

I wish to remind you again of your commitment in the meeting to ensure that these issues were dealt with - see attached the notes that we took from the meeting.

We look forward to continue working with you on these matters. I know that members of the Forum continue to meet with you and departmental colleagues, and stress the urgency with which we need to act. The efforts of Simon Hughes are likewise most helpful, but clear leadership on these issues are now an imperative.

Actions on our side include:

- a group of colleagues including Unison, the National Connexions Network, ICG and Careers England have developed a draft transition plan that will be shared with you shortly;
- Sue Barr from ACEG has sent you further evidence about the importance of careers education as part of a package of careers learning, experiences and IAG for young people;
- numerous members of the Forum have been actively involved on your Advisory Group for the AACCS;
- we have met with Simon Hughes about the need to address the current funding crisis affecting the delivery of career IAG and the importance of resolving these matters promptly to ensure that young people are not excluded from access to opportunities in further and higher education.

**Chair:** Sir Martin Harris

**Convening Committee:** Keith Herrmann (Convenor), Ian Borkett (TUC-unionlearn), Vivienne Brown (Skills Development Scotland), Margaret Dane (AGCAS), Dr Deirdre Hughes (Careers Profession Alliance)  
 Prof Tony Watts



We would welcome the opportunity to brief you and other Ministerial colleagues further about these issues.

Best regards  
Keith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KEA' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Keith Herrmann  
Convenor  
UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum

cc:  
Sir Martin Harris  
Director, Office for Fair Access

Ian Borkett  
Standards and Quality Manager, TUC and unionlearn

Vivienne Brown  
Head of Education and Qualifications, Skills Development Scotland

Margaret Dane  
Chief Executive, AGCAS

Dr Deirdre Hughes  
Careers Profession Alliance

Prof Tony Watts

Dame Ruth Silver  
Chair, Careers Profession Task Force