

careers England



promoting social mobility, achievement and economic well-being

Open letter to the Chair of the National Careers Council, Deirdre Hughes OBE

28th February, 2013

Dear Deirdre

Policy: Careers Guidance for Young People

At the meeting of the Board of Careers England last week we discussed the current policy of HMG. We considered the developing context in which the Select Committee's report makes sound recommendations for actions to ameliorate the evident deficiencies in the current circumstances. We also noted the progress of the Ofsted thematic survey and the commitment of Ofsted to consider placing careers guidance explicitly within its proposed revision of its inspection framework this autumn.

From our distinctive position as the trade body for careers sector employers, we support the Select Committee's recommendations. We also look forward to working with colleagues in Ofsted once the thematic review is completed and recommendations are forthcoming. Our view is that, taken together, the Select Committee report and the Ofsted report will represent a significant milestone in this session of Parliament; they should offer the opportunity for HMG to accept the need to redress the deficiencies created by the *'regrettable'* decision in the Education Act to place schools in the position of deciding how to discharge their duty to secure independent careers guidance for young people.

Knowing that the National Council will be discussing in April a draft of the first annual report it will be submitting to the Minister, we resolved that I should write to the Council requesting that you add the Council's weight to the Select Committee's recommendations and to the calls for them to be acted upon. Please be assured that if there is any way in which we can support the Council in this matter, we will readily respond.

One decision we have taken, which we hope the Council will value, is that we are commissioning the provider of our daily press and political monitoring service (Montrose) to produce a consolidated review of how "careers issues" have featured in the media and the political world during the past year. Once we have this we will publish it and make it available to the Council.

As always we trust that you and all members of Council are well, and we look forward to continuing to work together for the benefit of the country. Our very best wishes,

Yours ever

Steve Stewart, OBE
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Careers England