



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
Secretary of State

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Dear Chris,

## **CLOSURE OF THE QCDA**

Can I first of all thank you and your team for the dedicated public service you have given over many years. When we met before the general election I explained that our vision for education reform meant that functions performed by the QCDA should be discharged differently. I'm writing to confirm that in the autumn we propose to introduce legislation to abolish the QCDA.

I appreciate that the news of closure will come as a disappointment to those working in the QCDA, as well as to you and your executive team. While QCDA as an organisation does not have a place in the education system of the future, I know that the agency has many dedicated public servants who are committed to improving the quality of education in this country.

My decision does not mean that everything that QCDA does will stop: indeed, it is crucial that some vital work should continue.

We are committed to ensuring that National Curriculum Tests continue to be delivered effectively, and therefore currently envisage that the functions and the people that support the Tests would be needed after closure.

Where QCDA is presently engaged in activity that supports the administration of exams for learners (such as Diploma Awarding) we would wish to retain functions and people until these activities are no longer required or can be transferred. I should say that my view is that Government or its agencies should in principle not be involved in this kind of work in future, which is properly the domain of awarding bodies.

In other areas – notably qualifications development and the curriculum– I would want QCDA to withdraw as soon and as far as is practicable, and continue with activities only where it is necessary in order to comply with a statutory duty or where I am clear that not to do so would jeopardise the interests of learners. That is the basis on which reductions to QCDA's budget were made this year.

I would be grateful if your officials could work with mine to produce a schedule for the winding down of functions and the proper, and sensitive, handling of staff.

I look forward to your continuing support over the coming months as the new arrangements are finalised and the plans for winding down the organisation are developed and implemented. Thank you again for the professional and dedicated way in which you have led the organisation.

I am copying this letter to the Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, and will be placing a copy in the House Library.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Gove', with a horizontal line underneath.

MICHAEL GOVE