

Sir Anthony Greener
Chairman



8 November 2004

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UNIQUE LEARNER NUMBER (ULN)

Thank you for your letter of 4 October. I am pleased to hear that the DfES-led MIAP programme is continuing to make progress on delivering key enablers for improved data sharing across partners.

I would just like to confirm, as we discussed at our recent meeting, that the ULN is a critical building block for the QCA in delivering the Framework for Achievement, the wider workforce agenda, as well as the anticipated 14-19 changes. Without a ULN, QCA will not be able to deliver on:

- The Framework for Achievement which is based on units which are transferable across awarding bodies
- A central record of learner achievement which is accessible to awarding bodies and learners by January 2006
- New apprenticeship frameworks with clear qualification outcomes by January 2006
- The anticipated transition process to new Diplomas as recommended by Mike Tomlinson

At its meeting in October, the QCA Board discussed this subject and emphasised the important role of the DfES in ensuring strong leadership and adequate resource to deliver effective data management across the sector. Specifically, QCA needs to secure the NiNo as the ULN by summer 2005. We believe that it is also essential that appropriate contingency plans are put in place as we understand that there remain significant issues to be resolved with DWP/IR and the Office of the Information Commissioner.

The QCA remains fully committed to supporting work in this area, and will continue to input to the work of MIAP.



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