

The Rt Hon John Denham MP

Secretary of State for Innovation,
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Department for
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E-LEARNING AND ICT

I was grateful to you and Malcolm Read for the discussion we had on 23 July.

I am writing to confirm that I should like your written advice on the question of how we can become a world leader in higher education e-learning over the next ten to fifteen years. The issues we discussed that I should like you to cover in this work include:

- evaluating our current performance both in terms of the infrastructure available within the higher education world and how well it is deployed
- assessing how institutions should develop the use of e-learning tools to service an increasingly international and competitive market
- proposing specific options for what needs to be done to build world leadership in the field of e-learning. I would expect this to cover how we can build the capacity of a very small number of world-leading institutions, as well as looking at the general capacity of the sector
- looking at how ICT can support improved pedagogies, including the skill sets that will be required by learners (in approaching electronic material in a critical and evaluative way), teachers and institutional leaders.

You should feel guided rather than constrained by these particular points.

You said you would be able to let me have a short interim report by the end of August, and I am grateful for that. I have asked my office to arrange a further meeting for early September to discuss emerging findings, and we can also then agree a date for submission of your final advice.



JOHN DENHAM