



Lord Leitch
The Leitch Review of Skills
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Dear Colleague

Leitch Review of skills call for evidence

The Government has asked me to lead an independent review of skills, set up to consider what the Government's ambition should be for developing the country's skills by 2020.

The context for the Review was set out in the 2004 Pre-Budget Report. The document '*Skills in the global economy*', published alongside the PBR, describes the social and economic problems caused by the stock of adults in the UK without basic skills such as literacy and numeracy; the need for a highly skilled workforce to confront the challenges posed by global markets; and evidence of the UK's relatively poor international position in intermediate level skills. This has recently been reiterated in the Budget and the Skills White Paper launched earlier this month.

The Review is examining what skills profile the country should aim to achieve over the next 15 years. It will compare this to the status quo – the likely outcome of current education and training activity – and set out the implications of any gap for future Government policy. I will publish my interim analysis by the end of 2005 and report back to Government by spring 2006.

I am committed to ensuring that the Review is an open and transparent process that takes account of the views of its stakeholders. As such, I am writing to invite you, or an appropriate colleague, to submit evidence to the Review team.

This letter is being sent to key contacts across the relevant sectors – to education and training providers; the academic and research community; government agencies; sectoral and regional bodies; businesses and their representative organisations. This letter is also being posted on the Review website www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/leitch.

In the accompanying call for evidence document, I have outlined the issues on which I would like to hear your views. I recognise that such a call for evidence can be an onerous task, but your input will be of great value to the Review team and the evidence submitted in response to this letter will help to shape the direction that our work takes over the forthcoming year.

We would be grateful if you could send your submission to the Review team by 20th May. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your input into this important work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sandy Leitch'.

Lord Leitch