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Lord Sutherland of Houndwood  
House of Lords  
London SW1A 0AA

*Dear Stewart*

### **Inquiry into the delivery of National Curriculum Tests, 2008**

Thank you for agreeing to lead the inquiry into the delivery of National Curriculum tests this summer.

As you know, problems with the delivery of Key Stage Two and Key Stage Three National Curriculum Tests have resulted in a delay in the release of results to schools. The inquiry will investigate what went wrong, the reasons for the problems experienced and what should be done to avoid a recurrence in future years.

Regulation of the processes of National Curriculum assessment and of the roles of the National Assessment Agency as set out in the regulatory framework and Code of Practice fall clearly within Ofqual's remit. There are also relevant matters that fall outside Ofqual's remit, such as the responsibilities of the QCA and NAA for discharging the Department for Children, Schools and Families' remit to them. The inquiry will therefore report to Ofqual on matters within its remit, and separately to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on other relevant matters within its scope.

I am pleased to attach the terms of reference from Ofqual. I know that you have been in discussion with my officials in relation to the practicalities of your inquiry, and I understand that you intend to begin your work immediately, start your detailed work in September, and report to Ofqual and to the Department in the autumn.

Once again, I am very grateful to you for agreeing to undertake this important work. If I can be of any assistance during its course, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen".

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