

23 September 2017

Dear

Variation of Scheme of Delegation - withdrawal of delegated authority (local governor training and support)

At its meeting today, the Personnel Committee considered a proposal that academy schools' schemes of delegation should be amended with immediate effect and the proposal was agreed. You therefore should place this letter alongside your Scheme of Delegation and ensure that those who need to know about its content are aware of it.

The proposal that was agreed with immediate effect was that schemes of delegation should be varied so that local governing bodies do not have power to incur new expenditure on local governor training or on local governor support, including clerking, where any part of the commitment being funded would go beyond 31 August 2017.

The variation is intended to ensure that local governing bodies do not enter into long-term commitments, including annual subscriptions, with local authorities or other providers.

The Personnel Committee decided to implement this variation so as to allow time for us to consider the case, nature, practicality and affordability of alternative ways of supporting local governors. In particular, the Personnel Committee was concerned that: some providers appear to have a poor understanding of the governance regime in multi-academy trusts; provide a breadth of courses that causes local governors to believe they should train more than may be necessary; and the Personnel Committee was concerned that the DEMAT has not yet tested how appropriate it is to have its local governors (who are in the academy sector) trained and supported mainly through the maintained sector, and through at least four local authority providers at that.

It is appreciated that the variation may cause some concern, so do please note that no permanent decisions have been made. It is, as indicated above, simply that Members wish to keep options open. In any event, we anticipate that there will be little impact on training, either because academy schools have bought into service level agreements that continue throughout the academic year, or because service level agreements ending at Easter will leave only the summer term affected, during the second half of which training can be relatively minimal. That said, we will happily consider plugging any gaps during the summer term, if we are approached.

There is one area over which you may have a very particular concern and that is clerking if your clerking arrangements end before the end of the summer holiday. In these cases, please do bear in mind that you now lack the authority to sign a new service level agreement or employment contract, or to increase the pay of any existing employee.

However, where this means that your clerking service ceases before the end of the summer holiday and you cannot make alternative arrangements without incurring new expenditure, the Personnel Committee has empowered officers to make further variations to facilitate local expenditure, provided those arrangements do not extend beyond 31 August. If you wish to discuss such a possibility, please try my number, or contact my assistant, Andrew Dell, to book a day or evening telephone conversation. Andrew's telephone number is 07522 669505.

Yours sincerely

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