

17 January 2012

Dear

I am writing to let you know that I will step down from the position of Chief Executive of Skills Funding this summer and return to retirement. I informed BIS of my decision in August 2011, but was happy to agree to remain in post for 12 months to complete the Agency restructuring and allow sufficient time for BIS to identify a successor and for me to carry out a handover.

You may already be aware that Simon Waugh has also announced today that he will be leaving the organisation at the end of March. After considerable success in the NAS, Simon has completed his three year contract and wishes to spend more time with his family

I wanted to be certain that you heard this news directly from me rather than from any other source. So, having informed Agency staff, I am writing to you first before informing the media at the end of the day.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges associated with the LSC role and of establishing the Skills Funding Agency and then re-shaping it to better meet the needs of the Further Education sector.

My task was to create an Agency structured and able to perform a new role promoting and funding Further Education colleges and other training organisations and to meet the challenge of equipping England's economy with the skills it needs to overcome economic challenges. I am proud of the critical role that the Skills Funding Agency is playing in establishing the incentives and accountabilities to assist the Further Education and Skills sector to respond creatively, flexibly and dynamically to the demands of employers, learners and communities. With my task complete, it is time to move on.

I leave the agency in the very capable hands of the Executive Management Team. When I first took up my role as Chief Executive of the LSC I only intended to do the job for a year, but I have found working with colleagues in the organisation and in the sector very rewarding. In particular the welcome that I have received in colleges and training providers around the country, and the opportunity to witness with my own eyes the incredible impact that your work has on the lives of people and the business of employers all over the country, has made me proud to be part of this sector. It has also been a pleasure to work under a Minister whose passion is further education and skills.

There will be many opportunities for me to express my gratitude and appreciation of your efforts over the next six months, but I want to take this opportunity to offer my thanks for your hard work, perseverance and commitment. I have been impressed and humbled by your efforts.

Having acquired some portion of your collective passion, I will of course continue to follow the development of the FE Sector with great interest. In the meantime, between now and July 2012, I remain fully engaged with the task of pushing forward the changes we have started.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Russell', written in a cursive style.

Geoff Russell
Chief Executive Skills Funding Agency

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