



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
Secretary of State

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Les,

I am writing to confirm the direction of travel for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) that I have set out in the White Paper *The Importance of Teaching*.


I would like to begin, as I did in our discussion on 18 November, by thanking the Board and all of the staff in the YPLA for their work and achievements so far. I am particularly grateful for the contribution that you, as an organisation, have made to the rapid expansion of the Academies programme. I hear much positive feedback from Academies on the support and service that they have received from the YPLA and I attach great importance to this contribution to the Coalition Government's key programme. I am also grateful for the support and expertise the YPLA and its Board have brought to bear in simplifying the funding of 16-19 provision more generally.

As you know, this Government wants to work with its public bodies in a way which is transparent, accountable and flexible. Ministers should be held to account for the policies and programmes for which they are responsible and therefore accountability for the YPLA's functions should rest with me. It is for this reason that, subject to the passage of legislation, I intend to replace the YPLA with an executive agency. This will require the YPLA's dissolution so that, from April 2012, it can become the Education Funding Agency. The name of the Agency reflects the fact that it will be the funding agency for children and young people, funding all institutions that are not maintained by local authorities. This is more than a consolidation of existing responsibilities. With an increasing number of autonomous institutions, the role of the Education Funding Agency will be larger than the current role of the YPLA.

I recognise that the last few months will have been unsettling for the Board and staff. I hope that my announcement today will confirm my appreciation of the work that has been done so far and that I believe the success of the Education Funding Agency

will depend on the skills and knowledge that YPLA staff can bring to it.

I want to close by thanking both you and Peter Lauener for your leadership so far. As discussed when we met, I would be very grateful if you would now lead the transition for the YPLA to these new arrangements. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

With my good wishes,  
Y-S,  


MICHAEL GOVE