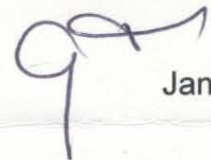


Ms Jackie Rafferty  
University of Southampton  
University Road  
SOUTHAMPTON  
SO17 1BJ

2009/0106218PODL



January 2010

*Dear Jackie*

Thank you for the letter of 15 December, jointly signed by Professor Sue White, Hilary Tompsett and yourself, outlining the Higher Education sector's response to the Social Work Task Force Report.

My Ministerial colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health and I welcome the Higher Education sector's positive support for the Social Work Task Force Report recommendations.

The positive messages in your letter re-affirm the Higher Education sector's continued commitment and valuable contribution to improving social work practice. Improvements, as highlighted in your letter, can only benefit those that have need of these essential services. I welcome your commitments to encourage colleagues from across HE to engage pro-actively with the Government's implementation plan; and to work together with other stakeholders to deliver the desired outcomes envisaged by the Social Work Task Force recommendations. I understand that Universities UK have organised a social work seminar for 2 February 2010.

The HE sector I am sure, through their involvement in the Social Work Reform Board and relevant working groups, will continue their positive approach to delivering the reforms needed in order to improve social work practice. The first of the Education Working Group meetings has been organised for 27 January 2010 and HE sector invitations were issued in December 09.

The support of the HE sector is greatly valued. My Ministerial colleagues and I look forward to working with the HE sector to achieve our common aims, and we look forward to the development of the HE response to the Task Force's recommendations you mention in your letter.



**DAVID LAMMY**

1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET

[www.bis.gov.uk](http://www.bis.gov.uk)