

20th April 2015

Dear Andrew, Mark, Rod & Gareth

I am writing to follow up on your conversation with Nick Gibb on the future of A-Levels and GCSEs in community languages.

Like Nick, I am very concerned by recent announcements from some of your organisations that you intend to stop awarding qualifications in some community languages.

I have received numerous representations from members of Britain's minority ethnic communities making plain their worries that young people will soon be unable to take gold standard qualifications in these languages.

I want therefore to be very clear about the Conservative Party's position on this matter. We believe that it is vital that all young people master English, but we also believe that young people should engage with and study other languages as well – in particular their mother tongue or that of their parents and family.

I understand that in part your decision is in response to new Ofqual requirements on the structure of A-Levels. I am therefore calling on you to work with the regulator to secure the future of these qualifications and reverse your decision to cancel them.

At the same time, I am making a clear commitment that the next Conservative Government will guarantee the future of GCSEs and A-levels in subjects like Polish, Gujarati, Panjabi, Bengali and Turkish. As such, if there is no further action from the exam boards and Ofqual on this matter, we intend to launch an immediate consultation, within the first month of a new Government, on how best to secure the future of these qualifications.

I look forward to your response



Rt Hon Nicky Morgan
Secretary of State for Education

CC: Glenys Stacey, Chief Regulator