



Rt Hon Ed Balls MP
Secretary of State

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19th

March 2009

Dear *Stephen*

British Education Communication and Technology Agency

I am writing to set out my priorities, and in agreement with Sion Simon, those of DIUS, together with associated funding, for Becta in 2009-10.

I would firstly like to put on record our thanks to Becta for its work over the past year and to acknowledge the progress that has been made, including the successful launch of the Home Access project. We welcome the steady progress that has been made in the Harnessing Technology Strategy and its alignment to the Children's Plan; the continued use of effective self improvement tools being adopted by schools and Local Authorities; and the support for the further education (FE) sector in making effective use of technology. We look to Becta to continue to make progress in these areas. Finally, we would like to thank Becta for their successful negotiations with Microsoft and School Licensing and your contribution to the Children's Plan, One Year On.

CONTEXT: CHILDREN'S PLAN ONE YEAR ON

The Children's Plan and the vision for the 21st Century School set out our ambitions for what we can, and should, achieve for our children and young people in terms of their educational attainment and wider well being. The recently published Children's Plan One Year On sets out the progress that has been made in working towards these aims, demonstrating examples of good practice, and highlighting the work that still needs to be done. Becta has a significant role in delivering this vision, and I am grateful for the contribution it has already made to this key Departmental priority. It will be vital for Becta to work with this Department and DIUS, and where appropriate, other government departments, local authorities and government regional offices to effectively manage the challenges of delivery. The public rightly have higher expectations than ever. They must be assured that we are organised so that the system will deliver the promises made in the Children's Plan and Workforce Strategy



department for
children, schools and families

and that we are capable of meeting new challenges as they evolve.

Becta is a key partner in our strategy to ensure that schools, colleges and other providers have the capacity to fulfil their role and deliver the outcomes we are committed to for children and young people.

Becta's work in 2009-10 needs to be clearly linked to my Department's and the Government's wider aim for a society where all children and young people are able to achieve their full potential. These are set out in the Department's Strategic Objectives (DSOs) and I expect all of Becta's work to be focussed on supporting the delivery of these and the relevant challenges set out in the Digital Britain documents prepared for Government by Lord Carter and the digital inclusion plan produced by Paul Murphy and the MISC34 Cabinet Committee. In addition I welcome your recent publication *Harnessing Technology: Next Generation Learning*, which sets out an ambitious agenda for change. You are working with many partners to begin to turn this into a reality. You have begun a major programme to provide home access to technology for all children and young people including key audiences of parents, employers and learners and are running a proof of concept trial for DIUS on access for adult learners. There are many challenges ahead; I believe Becta is well placed to help ensure technology is used to transform learning, bringing new flexibility and reaching out to previously excluded groups.

Becta should provide guidance to schools and local authorities so that the Harnessing Technology Grant can be deployed locally to best drive the delivery of the revised Harnessing Technology Strategy. We expect Becta to produce their corporate plan which will detail targets for timely delivery.

Becta has a leadership role in ensuring that the national digital infrastructure for education and skills is fit for purpose and cost effective in its design and its operation. Through this role I would want you to embed the concept of environmental efficiency and the delivery of the recommendations of the Zero Carbon Task Force into your work.

DCSF PRIORITIES

The most important DCSF priorities for Becta will be in developing your leadership role, the development and use of technology for the benefit of children, learners and families and the specific strategic interventions that bring about system-wide change.

I regard the more critical outcomes from Becta's work in 2009-10 to be:

- The effective delivery and roll out of the Home Access Programme
- Developing practical solutions to ensure that best practice in e-learning is available and accessible across the system
- Develop best practice for 14-19 Partnerships and consortia of providers, based on a clear vision on the use of ICT to support our objectives for young people and more generally to provide support to the DCSF work to manage

the systems risks to diploma delivery

Becta continues to lead in the strategic development and delivery of the Harnessing Technology strategy. In addition to the priorities outlined, I will be looking to you to take forward the following:

Providing Strategic Leadership:

- a. Setting out expectations through the agreed Harnessing Technology strategy through better teaching and training;
- b. Delivering a more flexible, tailored learning;
- c. Better assessment and tracking of learner progress; and
- d. More effective engagement and communications with parents and families.

System Intervention:

- a. Raising expectations of parents, increase the number of authorities using online reporting systems to engage with parents;
- b. Monitor infrastructure implementation to ensure best use of capital costs
- c. Deliver the Home Access programme to ensure the equipment is used effectively and that end users have the skills and confidence to use it effectively;
- d. Build skills of teachers, lecturers and support staff in the use of learning through ICT; and
- e. Develop effective solutions for Managed Services in Primary Schools.

WORKING WITH DCSF

Along with other NDPBs, Becta is playing a key role in the DCSF Group. The relationship between the Department and Becta should continue to be associated with: openness; trust; consistency; challenge and a sense of shared purpose, both at an operational level and through membership of the DCSF Group. It is essential that Becta has in place robust processes which provide assurance for the effective delivery of its remit. I expect Becta to immediately raise with the Department any potential issues/problems related to delivery including any arising with associated contractors or partners. I also look to Becta to continue to share its knowledge of the system and its expertise in ICT with the Department and/or other parts of the DCSF Group. I also expect it to provide the Department with timely and accurate advice about key issues including those that impact on technology, along with options for resolving them, reporting progress and highlighting potential shortfalls.

My Department is and will remain a direct employer of apprentices and we want to ensure all our agencies and NDPBs also recruit and employ apprentices. I therefore expect you to employ apprentices within your own organisation and to report progress against a target level set in agreement with my officials

DIUS CONTEXT AND PRIORITIES

DIUS and its partners are helping to create the climate for economic success now and in the future. They support business and individuals to gain the skills they need to get on and ensure that the UK is the best place in the world for science, research and innovation. This focus is equally important in the current economic climate - to build resilience to economic upheaval and provide firm foundations for growth as the economy recovers. The innovative use of technology for learning has an important contribution to make to this work, and we know that adult learners and their employer's value and welcome online opportunities and support.

Becta has in the last year published its three year technology strategy for FE and made good overall progress in its delivery. We look to Becta now, in the current economic climate, to continue the implementation of its FE strategy, helping colleges and providers to make the most of the benefits that technology offers in teaching, learning and management. We expect this to be done in the wider context of the DIUS' Strategic Objectives (DSOs) and for the Becta Board and staff to be aware of the development of the Skills Funding and Young People's Learning Agencies. Just as with the schools sector, the key tasks for Becta are to develop its leadership role in terms of technology and to help bring about system-wide change. Specific activities are set out in the enclosed matrix but in overall terms, they include:

- Developing an FE system that is fully confident in the use of technology Through the development of technology skills among the FE workforce;
- Supporting equity and social cohesion through, supporting the development of inclusion policies;
- Raising the quality of technology products and services through, ensuring that the technology delivery chain works properly; and
- Accelerating quality improvement within the FE sector through, helping FE colleges and providers to assess and increase their e-maturity.

DIUS is developing a number of innovative and entrepreneurial technology and social media projects across the FE sector. These projects will be run in a strategic partnership with Becta to stimulate and encourage the use of technology in FE.

Becta is formally sponsored by DCSF, but is also, of course, a valued and expert partner for DIUS, and the expectation is that the DIUS/Becta relationship will be characterised by the same qualities which typify DCSF/Becta contact.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Becta will be expected to work in partnership with other national agencies with responsibility for supporting and improving education and skills including Partnerships for Schools; Ofsted; LSC; QCA, plus any successor agencies; LLUK; LSIS; SSAT; National Strategies; the Commission for Employment and Skills; NCSL and TDA. Becta should support DIUS' interests in innovation through supporting the work of the Technology Strategy Board, and together with JISC, the deployment of technology in the HE sector.

I welcome Becta's approach to working more closely with Local Authorities and Directors of Children's Services and I recognise that there is much that technology can do to support them in their wide and often difficult roles. I hope you can look to your Board to support you in your work with LAs and other partners.

A breakdown of priorities is attached at Annex B.

FUNDING, EFFICIENCY, REDUCING BURDENS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

To deliver the priorities set out in this letter, Becta's baseline budget for 2009-10 is £108,785,000 which comprises £62,585,000 programme and running costs, £6,300,000 capital and £39,900,000 capital for Home Access. See Annex A attached for reference.

Included in the £62,585,000 is £396,905 that we expect Becta to make in efficiency savings in 2009-10. Becta must ensure that these agreed efficiency savings are recycled into front-line activities.

We expect Becta to take a prominent role in policy discussions about the role of technology in addressing challenges within the current economic climate. In particular we would like Becta to take a lead role in developing propositions to achieve future efficiencies through new approaches to technology systems and infrastructure in the different sectors of education and training.

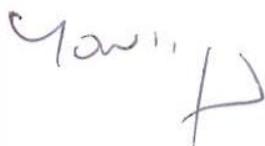
CONCLUSION

The Department or Becta can propose amendments to this Remit letter in-year provided that both organisations are in agreement. Becta should seek the prior agreement of the NDPB Sponsor Unit in the Department's School Resources Group before taking on any significant new work during the year.

I expect Becta to agree with me the key performance indicators which will be included in Becta's 2009-2010 Business Plan and I look forward to agreeing this plan in the spring of 2009 and subsequently hearing about Becta's further progress on its activities.

We are most grateful for your organisation of this year's successful World Forum. This is part of valuable international work that we would like to see being continued. We will consider with you in due course the way forward for the 2010 Forum.

I am copying this letter to Graham Badman as the interim Chair of Becta.



ED BALLS MP

Annual Resource Allocation letter:

The Department will provide a net funding requirement as Grant in Aid up to a limit of £108,785,000

Element ¹²	Resource DEL	Capital DEL	Total Resource Budget	Grant in Aid
Pay	£12,003,095		£12,003,095	£12,003,095
Other Admin costs	£3,900,000		£3,900,000	£3,900,000
Recurrent Programme spend DCSF	£26,056,905		£26,056,905	£26,056,905 ³
Recurrent Programme spend DIUS	£4,250,000		£4,250,000	£4,250,000
Home Access	£14,300,000		£14,300,000	£14,300,000
FutureLab	£1,500,000		£1,500,000	£1,500,000
SEND AAC	£575,000		£575,000	£575,000
Depreciation	(£511,000)		(£511,000)	
Cost of Capital	(£30,000)		(£30,000)	
Own Capital - E Learning Foundation Accommodation Technology for Becla TOTAL		{£1,000,000} {£3,100,000} {£1,400,000} £5,500,000		{£1,000,000} {£3,100,000} {£1,400,000} £5,500,000
Programme Capital - Academies		£800,000	£800,000	£800,000
Home Access ²		£39,900,000	£39,900,000	£39,900,000

¹ The management of Resource Budget will involve the control of Near-Cash and Non-Cash. Appendix 1 to Chapter 5 of the [Consolidated Budget Guidance 2007-08](#) shows the standard attribution to near-cash and non-cash of the main economic activity.

² The capital budget for the Home Access Programme for 09/10 is 54.9m, 15m of which is retained by the Dept to be issued through Standards Fund for the Targeted Groups strand.

³ This figure includes admin efficiencies in 09-10 of £396,095 which have reduced the pay and non pay line.

Element ¹²	Resource DEL	Capital DEL	Total Resource Budget	Grant in Aid
Total	£62,585,000	£46,200,000	£103,285,000	£108,785,000

Becta Remit Letter 2009-10**Annex B**

Remit Item / Wording Expected	Sponsor Team & Key Contact
<p>DCSF</p> <p>The Remit Letter and Business Plan should closely reflect the DSO's</p>	
<p>Home Access:</p> <p>- To manage delivery of the Home Access programme through the pilot phase which starts in February 09 and national rollout from Oct 09</p>	Inderjeet Nijhar
<p>Achieve world-class standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by ensuring that schools have access to proven support tools that enable them to achieve efficiency, effectiveness and value for money across the system; • by improving the capability of the school workforce, providers and learners to use technology effectively; • by continuing to support schools on parental engagement through the use of ICT including through the development of new policy approaches and by continuing to help schools meet Ministers expectations to report online to parents with secondary schools doing so by 2010 and primary schools by 2012' • by continuing to support LAs on parental engagement through the use of ICT and working with CIO Group (through the Gateway to Educational Services Programme) to provide a joined-up and universally available set of services which can be delivered with a consistent 'look and feel' between central government, schools and LAs. 	<p>Nicole Malabre 0207 273 487 3</p> <p>Mike McHugh Mark Cummings</p>
<p>Information System and Technology Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to support the project to deliver an information, systems and technology strategy for the education, skills and children's services 'system' and an underpinning Enterprise Architecture that will support, amongst other things, the development and use of the Schools Interoperability Framework (SiF). 	John Callery 0207 273 5169
<p>Capital Programmes: Building Schools for the Future (BSF), One School Pathfinders (OSP), Primary Capital Programme (PCP) and Academies</p>	Louise Robinson Andy Gates

<p>We want Becta to work closely with Partnerships for Schools (PFS) and with the DCSF Schools Capital Planning and Advisory Team and the DCSF Academies teams to ensure that technology investment delivers transformation in learning. In particular I expect Becta to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide strategic advice, response and analysis to DCSF Capital Programmes teams, including responding to external reviews of the programmes • work with key partner agencies and major suppliers of technology to develop and articulate a world class vision for capital investment programmes • help Local Authorities to identify visions and strategies for using technology to deliver educational transformation • provide direct advice and support as appropriate to project teams delivering BSF, OSP and PCP (eg PFS advisers/directors, project managers, design teams, Local Authority and school leadership teams) • ensure Academy ICT procurement is led by educational need and is OJEU compliant • provide direct advice and support as appropriate to Academy project teams (eg DCSF project lead, project managers, design team, senior leadership team) • support scrutiny of ICT elements of submitted BSF, PCP and Academy documentation (eg Visions, strategies for change, business cases and procurement strategies) 	
<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Materials in alternative formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becta must continue to play an active role in the Accessible Resources Steering group set up by my Department, helping us to ensure that the chosen contractor conducts effective trials of alternative formats with selected schools and LAs and arrives at some viable best practice recommendations on alternative file formats and appropriate end user tools. The Agency will have a very important contribution to make in helping assess the effectiveness of the tools and approaches used in the pilot and arriving at plans for long-term sustainability.' <p>Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC): <i>Better Communication</i>, the speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) action plan (published December 2008) announced that Becta</p>	<p>Elizabeth Rouse SENDD</p> <p>Stephen Dance 0207 273 8264</p>

<p>would support the alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) sector as part of its full response to the recommendations of the Bercow Report. As set out in the action plan, DCSF officials will continue to work closely with yours in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considering what scope there is for the Home Access Programme to support children with AAC needs; • supporting, through a grant of £75,000 in 2009-10, the appointment by Becta of an AAC Co-ordinator; • supporting Becta in making grants, to a total of £500k per year in each of the next three years starting 2009-10, to organisations in the AAC sector. The Becta grants are intended to support the development of the sector, and should be deployed in such a way as to enhance and support sources of specialist advice, information and assessment to which local authorities, schools and early years settings would have recourse when meeting children's needs; and • considering future options to support the delivery of AAC, including evaluating messages emerging from commissioning pilots and related work. 	
<p>Sustainable Development: Your Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) should address the following areas, explaining how you plan to build on current work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how you can support schools who are under increasing pressure to reduce energy costs by promoting energy conserving behaviour, e.g through the continuing production of clear guidance and the ICT /energy conservation road map; • what you will do to further promote to schools 'whole life' considerations when purchasing equipment; • explain how you will build on your most recent SOGE return and supply a more detailed response next time round; • how you will proceed with encouraging your partners to move to energy-efficient centralised network-based services 	<p>Mark Donnelly 0207 925 6634</p>
<p>14-19 Agenda Safeguard the young and vulnerable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By improving the safety of children and learners aged 0-19 through advice, direction and development of policies relating to the use of technology in education including issues around data 	<p>David Churchill 0207 925 6595</p>

<p>security</p> <p>Achieve world-class standards in education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By ensuring curriculum and qualification developments take account of the opportunities and risks that technology brings, particularly around 14-19 reform and including advice for rural areas on e-learning to support Diploma delivery and more generally to provide support to the DCSF work to manage the systems risks to diploma delivery • By challenging and supporting the City Learning Centres that Becta manages to deploy technology to strengthen provision for 14-19 learners <p>Ensure young people are participating and achieving their potential to 18 and beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by supporting all local areas to strengthen their 14-19 Prospectus and link it to a Common Application Process, for example by developing common standards for interoperability • by producing advice for consortia of 14-19 providers on standards and systems for interoperability and on data security • by developing the e-maturity self-assessment framework so that consortia will be able to assess and then respond to their ability to use technology to support learning <p>We have identified a number of specific activities to support 14-19 reform which Becta will do subject to DCSF agreeing additional funding resources.</p>	
<p>DCSF Group Partners Becta must work closely with other DCSF group partners in implementing the Harnessing Technology strategy and ensuring that technology supports the improvement and reform outlined in the Children's Plan.</p> <p>TDA Becta should work with the TDA to ensure that the principles of universal home access are understood by the school workforce and that they are engaged in the process whenever that is practical and beneficial to the aims of the programme. Becta should also work with the TDA to ensure that the resources and advantages of the Regional Broadband Consortia are shared by the whole school community, including trainee teachers.</p> <p>NCSL</p>	<p>Tony Dunne 0207 925 3754</p>

<p>Becta should work closely with the college/NCSL to ensure that school leaders are fully informed about the role of technology in supporting the improvement and change envisioned in the Children's Plan.</p> <p>QCA</p> <p>Becta should work with QCA and others to ensure curriculum and qualifications developments take account of the opportunities and risks that technology brings, particularly around primary curriculum developments and the 14-19 reform area.</p>	
<p>DIUS</p> <p>In April 2008, Becta published, with DIUS' endorsement, a three-year (2008-2011) strategy for technology in further education and skills which is firmly based within the context of 'Harnessing Technology'. The aim of this is to enable colleges and providers, through the effective use of technology, to meet the needs of learners and employers.</p> <p>This strategy and the specific projects which come from it must contribute to the delivery of the DIUS strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to accelerate the commercial exploitation of creativity and knowledge, through innovation and research, to create wealth, grow the economy, build successful businesses and improve quality of life. • to improve the skills of the population throughout their working lives to create a workforce capable of sustaining economic competitiveness, and enable individuals to thrive in the global economy. • to build social and community cohesion through improved social justice, civic participation and economic opportunity by raising aspirations and broadening participation, progression and achievement in learning and skills. • to pursue global excellence in research and knowledge, promote the benefits of science in society, and deliver science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills in line with employer demand. • to strengthen the capacity, quality and reputation of the further and higher education systems and institutions to support national economic and social needs. • to encourage better use of science in Government, foster public service innovation, and support other Government objectives which depend on the DIUS expertise and remit. 	<p>Val Hewson</p>

Becta's priorities for action in support of these objectives will include working with its Harnessing Technology partners in FE to:

- develop an FE system that is fully confident in the use of technology through:
 - informing the development of DIUS' vision for the future use of technology in FE
 - supporting the initial and continuing training and development needs of the FE leadership and workforce
 - supporting the network of business and trade union leader advocates for technology-based provision
 - showcasing FE and HE through the planned 2010 Learning and Technology World Forum
 - taking forward the Next Generation Learning campaign in support of the FE service, learners and employers
 - undertaking a programme of research to inform policy and practice in technology-based FE provision
 - establishing quality standards for digital resources
- support equity and social cohesion through:
 - informing the development of digital inclusion, informal adult learning and family learning policies
 - exploring how the benefits of Home Access might be extended to adult learners
 - offering evidence-based advice on the development of ICT Skills for Life policy and provision
- raise the quality of technology products and services through:
 - identifying and promoting the efficiencies and effectiveness which technology makes possible
 - implementing the agreed recommendations of the technology delivery chain review through a national support service for FE providers
 - developing a vision for technology within the FE capital programme
 - working as appropriate with JISC in respect of their responsibilities within FE
- accelerate quality improvement through:
 - Advising on the recognition within the inspection process of effective technology-based provision

- o Continuing an assessment of the incentives for delivering technology-based products and services
- o Working with partners to further develop the Technology Exemplar Network
- o Fully embedding the FE technology improvement leadership tool (Generator) within the wider context of FE performance management.

HE:

There are no specific requirements for Becta in HE, where arrangements for delivering DIUS strategic objectives through HEFCE, JISC and the HEA will continue to apply. However, Becta should continue to work closely with these agencies to ensure that overlaps do not occur and that benefits are gained from potential synergy between the use of technology in HE, FE and schools. The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills is developing a revised framework for HE beyond the timeframe of Harnessing Technology (2008-2014), to ensure that our HE sector will remain world class over the next ten to 15 years. Technology will have any important role in this framework, which will include specific plans for our leading the world in e-delivered distance learning. Becta, which has been working with DIUS on a vision of how technology specifically might support FE in the future, should offer the appropriate support to the agencies responsible for HE, to help them meet the objectives of the HE framework.

The introduction of the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) from April 2010 introduces changes to the education, learning and skills system which BECTA is well placed to support. This includes: continuing to support and build ICT capacity and capability across further education; contributing to the simplification agenda; and playing a full part in the development of new e-enabled approaches across the sector.

On simplification, Becta should produce simplification plans in April for scrutiny by the FE and Training Bureaucracy Reduction Group (BRG) which describes how Becta have been supporting, and will support other agencies and providers to simplify their processes. Becta should continue to play a full part, as a member of the BRG to ensure that processes supporting delivery of new and existing policies can make best

John McLaughlin
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Bobbie McClelland

use of new technology to reduce burdens and improve sharing and storage of information.

Becta should continue to support work to improve the efficiency of the system for the benefit of our citizens. This includes supporting the work of Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP), as MIAP works with other partners to: maximise the benefits of the unique learner number (ULN); introduce the Learner Record; and enable key departmental priorities including Diplomas, QCF and Skills Accounts.

In all of this work, Becta will be expected to continue to work in partnership with FE stakeholders in general and in particular with other national agencies with responsibility for supporting and improving the further education service, including the Commission for Employment and Skills, the Learning and Skills Council, Ofsted, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, Lifelong Learning UK, the Learning and Skills Improvement Service and JISC. Opportunities for partnership work include through, for example, through its membership of the LSIS National Improvement Partnership Board, its own FE & Skills Strategy Programme Board and specific projects.

Becta should take account of the broad DIUS Strategic Objective of accelerating the exploitation of creativity and research across the breadth of its activities. In particular, Becta can play a valuable role in creating demand for innovative products and services, through its work to identify technology needs and brigading demand across the schools and FE & skills. Becta should also actively seek to develop its engagement with those DIUS sponsored organisations that support research and innovation, including the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board. Becta engagement with these bodies offers an opportunity to strengthen the links between Government investment in the supply of research and innovation and the demand for innovative products and services that can be created by public sector procurement.

Fergus Harradance

<p>Information Assurance and Data Handling</p> <p>In respect of Information Assurance and Data Handling the Department expect Becta to comply with all relevant requirements from the HMG Manual of Protective Security (MPS) and related government security standards and, when it comes into effect, the HMG Security Policy Framework and related government security standards. Compliance is also expected with the Mandatory Minimum Measures and other requirements of the 2008 Hannigan review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the requirement to ensure that relevant government security requirements are specified in contracts with 3rd parties. DCSF runs Information Assurance forums for SIROs and practitioners across the DCSF Group and expects Becta to play an active role in shaping and sharing best practice in Information Assurance and Data Handling through these forums.</p>	<p>Mike McHugh Mark Cummings</p>
<p>CIOG</p> <p>Portfolio and Risk Management</p> <p>Becta should produce and maintain a portfolio or index of major projects and programmes, to work with the Department to apply Gateway and other such assurance approaches as required by the Perm Sec, identify any local assurance that they will apply to these (including audit), capture key risks and issues in their corporate risk management system, capture progress in their corporate performance management system and make all of this regularly available to the department.</p> <p>Transformational Government</p> <p>Becta should play a full part in promoting service transformation across the education, skills and children's services sector by working with CIO Group in DCSF and their equivalents in DIUS and others to bring about significant improvements in how information is managed shared and used. These changes should translate into significant improvements for learners and their parents in accessing services.</p> <p>In particular I want Becta to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to the overall governance of the system through the DCSF Group CIO Council • promote the adoption of national and international information standards for the sector through supporting the work of the Information Standards Board • continue to work with DCSF, JISC and other relevant partners to 	

support the development of a coherent Identity Assurance framework for the education, children's services and skills sectors, including a simplified sign-on solution for children, learners and parents and promoting secure employee authentication and access to services.

- promote and support measures to improve the security of data and information, including secure authentication for practitioners and the provision of guidance;
- promote and support LAs and schools to provide more efficient channels that directly meet the needs of learners and their parents.
- to work with CIOG and Parent Strategy to develop coherent parent access to educational services e.g. working with the Gateway to Educational Services (DES) team.

Partnership Working

Becta should work in partnership with DCSF and DIUS, other Government Departments and organisations such as MIAP, in ways that are appropriate to enabling delivery of its remit, and the Government's refreshed overall strategy in this area. Subject to appropriate agreement Becta may act as lead, enabler, and advisor or engage in direct delivery, dependent upon its expert assessment of the situation, including who is best placed to realise, or help realise, required outcomes. It will be important to ensure that structures are in place to secure the actions needed across the wider range of partner bodies involved.

Safeguarding Children Online

Becta should continue its work on safeguarding children online; and, in particular, to continue to work closely with, and to support, the Department in taking forward the recommendations of the Byron Review, especially in relation to the education and training strands of the Review.