



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

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Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take the opportunity, at this, the final meeting of the Becta Board, to extend my personal thanks for the work that Becta has led in the field of Information and Communications Technology in education since its inception in 1998. The valuable role that Becta has played is a result of the hard work and commitment of the Chair and the Board of Trustees; the Chief Executive and his senior leadership team – and of each and every member of staff. The professionalism shown in bringing the organisation to a timely and successful closure has been notable and is a reflection of your dedication.

Closing the Agency was not an easy decision for the Government to take, but a necessary one in helping us to make savings across Government through our wider programme of reform.

There are some important achievements that I would like to celebrate. Becta has given real support to both school leaders and the industry in helping to bring the first wave of technology into schools. The leadership that you have provided has helped to embed the effective use of technology across the system – not only in schools but also by influencing the market to ensure that it meets the needs of the sector. I know too that the organisation has been highly valued by schools for the expert, independent advice that you provided as well as the practical tools developed for the front line.

The challenge now will be to draw on the knowledge and skills that Becta has embedded in schools, and to enable teachers and school leaders to have the flexibility and power to make their own choices. I am pleased that a number of staff have chosen to join the Department as their roles transferred here, and we look forward to drawing on their expertise going forwards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Gove". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.

MICHAEL GOVE