

The Rt Hon John Denham MP

Secretary of State for Innovation,
Universities and Skills

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Department for
**Innovation,
Universities &
Skills**

The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP
House of Commons
London
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19 February 2009

Dear Tessa

Thank you for your letter of 3 February, on behalf of a number of your constituents, about London Metropolitan University.

Whilst I share your constituents' concerns about the financial difficulties at London Metropolitan University, it is an important principle set out in legislation that neither myself nor Ministers can intervene in the funding decisions of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). As is the case with other universities, London Metropolitan University receives grant from HEFCE under a Financial Memorandum which sets out how it should properly account for its public funding. It is for the Funding Council to keep the financial health of the institutions it funds under review to protect the public interest, including ensuring that public funds are properly spent. Following the discovery that the university had received grant based on incorrect returns, discussions about the way forward are continuing between HEFCE and London Metropolitan University. I am confident that HEFCE will handle the situation appropriately.



JOHN DENHAM