



2010/0040690POSoS

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0870 0012345 ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk

Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

RECEIVED 30 JUN 2010

Your ref:01101883

28 June 2010

Ms Tessa

Thank you for your letter of 9 June outlining concerns from your constituents about the Academies Bill and their concerns regarding consultation on the conversion process. Parent governors would have to be involved in the decision-making and would be on the body which made the final decision about whether to consent or not.

Although consultation with parents, pupils and the local authority (LA) will not be statutory, schools will be free to discuss their plans for conversion to academy status with their local partners, including the LA, and we would encourage them to do so. Schools will be required to consult on conversion with staff under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) legislation.

Any school wishing to take this important step will want to ensure that parents and pupils are fully informed and able to express their views and we will be encouraging schools to consider carefully how to ensure that this happens.

The plans for more academies will not result in disadvantage but will allow schools to benefit from freedoms and flexibilities to help them innovate, raise standards and achieve enhanced outcomes for their students. There will be no lack of fairness because we will ensure that pupils at academies continue to benefit from the fair access provisions that admissions and exclusions legislation brings.

We know schools understand the benefits academy status will bring and over 1700 have already expressed an interest in moving to this. They want the liberation that comes from genuine independence but they will remain clearly accountable for the outcomes they deliver.

For more information on the Academies Bill your constituents may wish to visit
the relevant page of the departmental website
at: www.education.gov.uk/academies/bill

Yours,

Michael

MICHAEL GOVE
