



Mr Mike Buchanan
Party Leader
Justice for Men and Boys
Kemp House
152 City Road
London EC1V 2NX

30 July 2015

Ref: 2015-0032102

Dear Mr Buchanan,

I refer to your request for information dated 8 June 2015. You requested:

- 1. What are the DfE initiatives aiming at encouraging more women and girls to study subjects historically regarded as largely the preserve of boys and or leading to professions historically dominated by men e.g. STEM subjects? How much is budgeted for these initiatives in 2015/16?*
- 2. What are the DfE initiatives aiming at encouraging more men and boys to study subjects historically regarded as largely the preserve of girls and or leading to professions historically dominated by women e.g. psychology? How much is budgeted for these initiatives in 2015/16?*
- 3. Does the DfE recognise boys' underachievement as a problem to be addressed, and if so, what initiatives are in place, and how much is budgeted for them in 2015/16?*
- 4. Does the DfE recognise that boys' academic attainments have suffered as a result of an increasingly feminized teaching workforce? What are the percentages of female teachers in (a) primary schools, and (b) secondary schools, and are there any initiatives underway to encourage more men into teaching? If so, how much is budgeted for them in 2015/16*

Further to my letter to you of 10 July requesting clarification about what subjects you wanted information about you responded in your letter of 18 July as follows:

Question 1 – please provide information on Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Information Technology, Engineering, Mathematics.

Question 2 – psychology, English Literature.

Question 3 – relates to all subjects

Question 4 – still to be answered.

The Department for Education funds the Further Mathematics Support Programme (£5,008,667 in 2015-16) and the Stimulating Physics Network (£2,149,572 in 2015-16). Both these initiatives are mainly aimed at increasing participation of both boys and girls in mathematics, further mathematics and physics A level respectively. But they do place some additional emphasis on addressing the low proportion of girls progressing to these A levels. The Department does not fund any programmes aimed at specifically encouraging girls to study chemistry, engineering, computer science or information technology, nor does it fund any initiatives aimed at encouraging more boys to study either psychology or English literature.

The Department does not fund any initiatives that just focus on addressing boys' underachievement. The Government's education reforms are designed to ensure that all children, whatever their gender, have the opportunity to attain well at school.

There are no initiatives aimed at encouraging more men into teaching. Information about the percentages of female teachers in primary and secondary schools can be found in the statistical first release: "School Workforce in England: November 2014" which is available on Gov.UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/school-workforce-in-england-november-2014>

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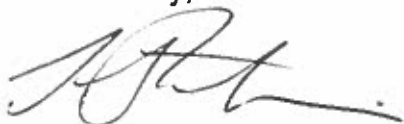
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If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the Department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, who were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the Department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Stanton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Stanton
Curriculum and Standards Division

