

Dear Ministers,

I am pleased to enclose the final report and Action Plan of the Science for Careers Expert Group. We identified that we have a challenging task ahead of us, if we are to attract many more people, and in particular young people, to aspire to be a scientist. A very large part of this task will be to get the right messages across, in the right way. It is a positive message of employment opportunities for those with science skills in every part of the economy and society. We need then to follow through with evidence based the information, advice and guidance to enable learners to make the subject and career choices that are right for them.

The report puts forward what the group believes is a clear steer to ensure that the UK economy has the science skills that it needs. There are 23 Actions aimed at:

- Raising awareness and motivating those not yet enthused by science;
- Ensuring a wide range of realistic role models are used at all levels, and in all areas;
- Developing an integrated, joined up and comprehensive Careers Awareness, Education, Information Advice and Guidance Service with a science strand within, that includes developing and investing in the professionals that deliver careers EAIG;
- Developing more accessible and comprehensive labour market information (LMI) on the demand for a STEM-skilled workforce;
- Challenging employers and professional bodies to work collaboratively to deliver thematic messages for all audiences;
- Focusing more attention on SMEs and the 'hidden science' using sectors to raise awareness of the full range of career opportunities;
- Developing a UK-wide HE careers IAG strategy and ensure continuing support for graduates;
- Developing more rigorous and complete data about early attitudes to STEM subjects and careers and influences on subject choice; and
- Increasing opportunities for young people, and those who influence them, to meet working scientists through collaboration with wider volunteering networks.

I am delighted that we have already identified some organisations to lead on some of the Actions. Our remit was fairly broad, and there are some areas that we were not able to give as much time to as we would have wished. I hope therefore that there will be an opportunity to continue discussion of the Plan and its implementation.

Best Wishes,

Diana