Written response to the recommendations from Learning and Teaching Scotland

Thank you for your letter of 13 September 2007, requesting background information from Learning and Teaching Scotland on the progress with the recommendations within the Removing Barriers and Creating Opportunities report.

Learning and Teaching Scotland is committed to promoting and mainstreaming equality and diversity in our activities and functions by creating an environment of equality of opportunity between disabled and other persons by finding and removing any barriers that make it harder for people with disabilities to access our services, to get a job with us, or the chance to improve their skills and gain promotion if already employed. We are also committed to improving opportunities for learners across Scotland’s schools and education authorities.

We published our Disability Equality Scheme on 3 December and this sets out our plans over the next 3 years in relation to Disability Equality. We are committed to the Social Model of disability and will focus on awareness raising and training, partnership building and working with staff and external bodies to address any inequalities. Other areas set out in the action plan include ensuring that LTS products and services are accessible to all and that the physical environment in both our offices does not offer any avoidable barriers to equality of opportunity.

As recommended in the report, LTS will strive to establish exemplar practices in the employment of disabled people. We have reviewed our policies and procedures to ensure that disability awareness is a mainstreamed as part of our HR strategy.

As recommended in paragraph 1166 of the report, LTS will work with the Scottish Government to pull together LTS’ relevant equalities related material by review and promote this across schools and education authorities. The report is a valuable tool in ensuring that all agencies within Scotland are aiming to achieve the same goals. We welcome the opportunity to share best practice with our partner bodies and to develop exemplar processes particularly with regard to recruitment.

LTS recognise the importance of promoting equality and will strive to ensure that our products and services are accessible to all.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Bernard McLeary
Chief Executive
Learning and Teaching Scotland
06 December 2007