

By email

7 August 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you for your response to our letter last month in which we introduced you to the work we do at the Royal Statistical Society. We're pleased you would be willing to undertake statistics training and we look forward to hearing from your team on this.

We believe that there is a crucial role for statistics and data to aid decision-making and improve transparency. With this in mind, we are sharing with you our briefings on the need for a year-on-year increase in maths teachers and for a new approach to mathematics education with a greater emphasis on data.

With regards to the curriculum, we welcome the recently launched review and the opportunity to improve the teaching and assessment of maths, statistics and data. The current system is not equipping students with the relevant skills to navigate and thrive in a world where careers are increasingly data focused and, in the briefing, we outline our recommendations for how this problem can be addressed.

With regards to teachers, we require a healthy workforce of qualified teachers for the problems around maths education to be addressed. Currently we face a shortage of teachers, with issues around pay, wellbeing and a lack of professional development. This can only have a negative impact on the teaching of maths, statistics and data. We call for several incentives to increase the number of qualified maths teachers in the attached briefing.

We hope you find the briefings helpful. Please let us know if you would like further information or if a member of your team would like to meet to discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Sarah Cumbers
Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Andrew Garrett
President

