



National Education Union

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Joint general secretaries

Dr Mary Bousted BA (Hons) MA PhD

Kevin Courtney

Justine Greening MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
Westminster
London, SW1P 3BT

4 January 2018

Dear Justine

We are writing to express our concerns about the appointment of Toby Young to the board of the new university regulator the Office for Students. As Equalities Minister the sexist and homophobic comments Mr Young has publicly made must be as unacceptable to you as they are to the National Education Union.

As you will know from the media uproar about this appointment Toby Young has also made unacceptable comments on disability, students from state schools getting into Oxbridge and children with special educational needs. It is surprising given the very public nature of these comments that he was not ruled out as an unacceptable appointee in the first place. The general public would not expect politicians or teachers to hold these views and the same standards should apply to members of this important new public body.

The National Education Union has welcomed the work that the Department for Education has been doing to tackle sexism in schools and are concerned that this vital work could be undermined by the signal given by this inappropriate appointment.

We look forward to hearing your views on this matter and if Toby Young is still to be kept in post your reasoning for welcoming it in light of his offensive comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary W. Bousted". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Mary Bousted
Joint General Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Courtney
Joint General Secretary