



2022-0040014SoSPO

The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Secretary of State for Education

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Matt Rodda MP

By email: matt.rodga.mp@parliament.uk

Your ref: MR9262

January 2023

Dear matt,

Thank you so much for your emails of 19 October and 2 November, enclosing correspondence from UCDx, about digital infrastructure for user control of personal data. I apologise for the delay in responding.

UCDx's continued interest in this work is much appreciated.

In our earlier response to an enquiry UCDx made to Department for Education officials, we set out that the work to develop digital identity for learning records has entered the phase of the project that is prototyping options to support a service making education more readily accessible to citizens. As previously outlined in correspondence with UCDx, there are no formal decisions on our approach yet and we will continue to engage with the education sector and learners on what this type of approach could look like. This would include determining if there is an appetite for this approach within primary user groups.

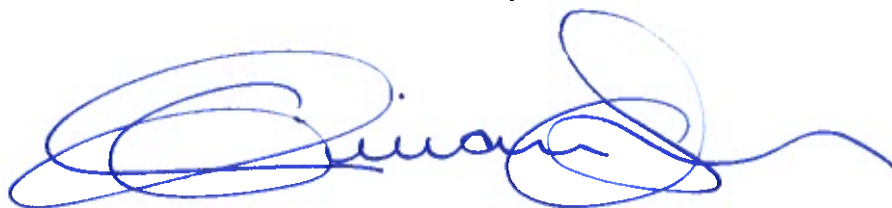
We are in discussions regarding our approach to digital identity across government, including Government Digital Service, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and Department for Work and Pensions. Within the Department for Education, we continue to work with key stakeholders, including Jisc, on how this could work to support the Skills for Jobs white paper, with lifelong learning driving our thinking.

I also understand that UCDx is talking with DCMS, who are looking to take the lead on conversations around Digital Identity at this time. We will continue to work with DCMS as we progress this work – and will ascertain how we can look to engage more widely once we have a clearer understanding of what our key users' preferences are.

We have also met with several education providers in how this can work for them and what potential learners would need to be able to share to have an impact. We will be looking at testing with a small number of providers in due course.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Keegan', with a large, stylized initial 'G' and a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Secretary of State for Education