



Department for Education

Department for Education
Ministerial and Public
Communications Division
Piccadilly Gate
2nd Floor Store Street
Manchester M1 2WD

Tel: 0370 0002288
www.education.gov.uk/contactus

Mr Trevor Rowell
Chairman
Council of British International Schools
55-56 Russell Square
London
WC1B 4HP

Our ref: 2016-0033873

July 2016

Dear Mr Rowell

Thank you for your letter of 30 June, addressed to the former Secretary of State regarding the negotiations to exit the European Union (EU). I am replying on her behalf.

The Prime Minister has set out very clearly that while Britain is leaving the European Union, it will not, and should not, turn its back on Europe.

The United Kingdom (UK) remains a member of the EU until our withdrawal is completed. Once the Article 50 process has started, withdrawal could take up to two years, or more if negotiations are extended.

While we remain a member of the EU we will continue to play a role and represent the interests of the British people. There are obviously big discussions to be had with our European partners, and the Department for Education will work with the education sector to ensure its voice is fully represented and that it continues to go from strength to strength.

Regarding the status of EU citizens in the UK, and the right of British teachers to work in the EU, the government's position is clear. We fully expect that the legal rights of EU nationals already in the UK will be properly protected. But we need to win the same rights for British nationals living in European countries.

We are confident that we will be able to reach an agreement protecting the rights of EU nationals here and our citizens in Europe. Securing such an agreement will be a priority for the Prime Minister in our EU negotiations.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

K Walker

K Walker
Ministerial and Public Communications Division