Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

**By email**

8 July 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

On behalf the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA), we write to offer our congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Education. As you will be aware, UCEA represents 170 Higher Education institutions (HEIs) as employers in relation to pay, pensions and reward issues. On behalf of our members and the HE workforce, we look forward to working with you and wish you every success in this role.

You may be aware that we were in discussion with your officials regarding HE membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and that your department has been in discussion with HM Treasury on this issue. The requirement to offer TPS and pay the full employer contribution rate without the funding support that has been granted to schools and further education colleges has created significant additional financial pressures on many HEIs, with a substantial risk of significant job losses, particularly in local communities in which these HEIs are important anchor institutions.

We know that you will have several pressures and calls on your diary, but we would very much welcome the opportunity to meet you to brief you on this important issue, as well as any other areas of HE industrial relations which may of interest to you.

Yours sincerely,

Raj Jethwa

**Raj Jethwa**
Chief Executive

**Professor George Boyne**
Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen
Chair of the UCEA Board

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