



The Right Hon. The Lord Johnson of Marylebone
Chair, Education for 11-16 Year Olds Committee
House of Lords
London, SW1A OPW

July 17th 2023

I was grateful to your committee for showing such deep interest in arts and cultural education during the witness session on July 13th, held as part of your inquiry into the challenges and opportunities faced by the secondary education system in England.

Given the interest of your members, I thought it might be helpful to provide further detail on my role and the role of the expert advisory panel in relation to the work of DfE and DCMS on a Cultural Education Plan.

The 2022 White Paper, Opportunity for all, set out that DfE and DCMS would work collaboratively on a plan for cultural education. The process would mirror that employed in the development of the National Plan for Music Education, in that government would be advised in its work by a panel of sector experts. I was announced as panel chair in August 2022 and a panel has since been appointed, with the selection of members a shared process between DfE and DCMS.

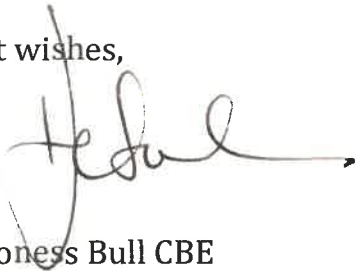
My remit, and the remit of the panel, is to operate in an advisory capacity to the work of the two departments as they develop a plan for cultural education. We have not been asked to undertake an independent, authored review and publish recommendations, but to bring sector expertise and provide advice on the aims, structure and content of the government's Cultural Education Plan.

The [Terms of Reference](#) set out the remit of the panel and the role of the chair and vice chairs. Paragraph 4 clarifies scope, noting that the National Curriculum, exams, Ofsted's inspection framework and performance measures such as the EBacc and Progress 8 are all out of scope. The government is focussing its plan on 0-18 year olds, which means higher education policy is also outside the scope of this plan.

I had the privilege of chairing the first meeting last week of a broad and diverse panel that brings expertise from across culture and education and from around the country. While it inevitably includes a range of views on cultural education, what we hold in common is a belief in its value as part of a broad and balanced education and a collective willingness to do whatever we can to ensure all children have equal opportunities to benefit from the positive outcomes cultural education can deliver. These outcomes are set out in the ToRs, as are the areas in which government believes more can be done to amplify, extend and equalise cultural education opportunities. My panel will focus on supporting the two departments in developing a plan that delivers on these ambitions.

I hope this is helpful to your committee as it continues its important and valuable work.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Bull', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Baroness Bull CBE