

Dear xxxx

Many thanks for this. I have not yet heard from Richard, but expect to do so (like me, he is retired, and I don't know what his scholarly regime is now). Meanwhile, you could certainly say to colleagues or anyone else informally on my behalf, the 2002 Document was a positive plan for Music and the selective quotation in the current Internal Report is misleading in this respect. The criticisms in that Report all flow from the failure of the University to appoint staff, both following the 2002 plan and particularly in the wake of David Chadd's death in 2006. With a dynamic and visionary appointment now at professorial level, a pathway for regeneration would immediately open up.

I remain surprised that a Report of such potentially significant impact on regional and national educational and cultural life should have been prepared without consulting at least one, if not more external specialist music advisers. On the other hand, that does give you enormous scope for positive action before the meeting of Senate. If I were you, I would be collecting a sheaf of letters of support by the good and the great locally, regionally and nationally. They need not necessarily all be musicians. I would use a combination of internet appeal and personal messages to individuals. Sir Philip Ledger should surely be asked, and not only for a letter, but to approach other significant interested parties on your behalf; the Chair of NAMHE (I am simply so out of touch, I don't know who that is), and the President of the RMA, Prof. Mark Everist, should be of the number, and Prof Susan Rankin of Cambridge was, as I, a special friend of David Chadd.

I hope you do not find all this an impertinence, but I am keen to help as much as I can, and you are free to disregard as much or all of it as you wish. I think a formal letter of support would come best from Richard and myself together, if we can manage it. If not, I would be happy to write alone. NB I wouldn't let the enemy - and you will know much better than I who they are - know what you are doing at this stage; particularly the role of the Head of School in the last few years and on the Report Committee is unclear to me at the moment.

All best

Robert