

from Professor **Roger Crofts** CBE Hon DSc FRSE FRSGS FRGS

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The Scottish Government

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GEOGRAPHY AND THE BACCALAUREATE

I applaud the approach to improving academic standards set out in the Scottish Government's proposals. But I am both surprised and disappointed to note that there is no mention of Geography. I presume that this is an oversight and that you and your officials will reconsider the position and place geography in its rightful place as one of the baccalaureate subjects.

I am sure that you will recognise that Geography is the one subject in the curriculum which bridges the natural and social sciences, and uniquely deals with the links between society, environment and economy. These are vitally important concepts for secondary students to be familiar with in their training as citizens. They are also at the heart of sustainable development. Indeed, there is no other subject which can deal with all aspects of sustainable development in a holistic and integrated manner which the topic demands. It is all the more surprising that you have chosen to exclude Geography from the Baccalaureate subject given the Scottish Government's strategic focus on a sustainable economy dependent upon the use Scotland's natural and human resources. None of the subjects on the Baccalaureate list can address this laudable policy objective as a whole, but Geography can and it has a proven track record of doing so.

I look forward to receiving your response to these points, and specifically the reasons why geography was excluded and what are your proposals for adding geography to the list of Baccalaureate subjects.

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