**Professional Financial Services: Accounting and data collection services to the EFA and the Department for Education**

Thank you for the interest you have shown in our exercise to collect and collate the financial reporting data of academy trusts. The Department has found your input very valuable and we came away from the 1:1 sessions with a clear list of questions you would need us to answer prior to ITT stage.

The announcement in the recent [White Paper](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nicky-morgan-unveils-new-vision-for-the-education-system) that all schools will become academies has had a further impact on our plans for both systems and processes as we now scale up to manage future volumes. Based on your advice, and our new political mandate, we are now working on refining our requirements and ensuring that they are fully aligned with the Department’s long term data and IT strategies. Unfortunately this development in our scope does mean that our original schedule will now slip somewhat and we will no longer be in a position to issue an ITT in April. We will however contact you again as soon as we are able to provide more details on how we plan to proceed.