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Dear James,

Thank you for your letter of 10 November informing me that Teach First will not be bidding for the Scottish Government tender in respect of a new route to teaching.

I am pleased that you agree that importance of classroom leadership within Scottish education is key and that this is reflected in the tender now underway.

I am sure you appreciate our wider need to set criteria that takes account of our objective of addressing particular recruitment issues while maintaining academic rigour. That has, of course, driven the detail of the procurement exercise.

I am grateful to you for advising me of the plans of Teach First.

JOHN SWINNEY