

Press Release

**From Barry Stamp
Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesperson
Stafford Constituency**

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Use: Immediate

Lib Dems Hit Out At Suggestion to Replace Headteachers With Businessmen

Stafford's Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesperson has today hit out at the Government-commissioned report into school leadership which could see businessmen running schools.

Barry Stamp said he was appalled the Government could even contemplate such a move that would relegate trained educational professionals into second spot behind business gurus.

"The Government's first step should be to admit they are responsible for the crisis in headteacher recruitment rather than trying to paper over the cracks by looking at this hare-brained scheme. They must realise that increasing pressure and overburdening the role with paperwork has led to perfectly qualified candidates choosing not to take on leadership roles. Business executives can offer much to local schools in terms of financial support and innovative ideas and as members of a leadership team. But a distinction must be made between management tasks like balancing the books and decisions over teaching and learning. Judgements over the curriculum, lesson plans and teaching methods should always be made by a teaching professional. The answer to headteacher recruitment problems is to ease the burden of the job to make it more attractive, not move the goalposts on who is eligible to apply. Headteachers should be allowed to concentrate on the improving the educational opportunities for the pupils not on shuffling every increasing mountains of paper," said Barry Stamp.

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Notes to editors: The report published today by PricewaterhouseCoopers suggests schools could be led by business and community leaders. The report goes on to suggest

Ministers should look at removing barriers to headteacher appointments to allow non-teachers to take up the role.