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**Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister of State for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus)

Mr Harmeet Singh Bhakna  
Director, Panjabi Language Awareness Board UK  
By email: [info@panjabialevel.co.uk](mailto:info@panjabialevel.co.uk)

Your ref: 10661

9 November 2015

Dear Mr Singh Bhakna,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding Panjabi A level. I am replying as the Minister of State for Schools.

The Department is currently considering what further support and encouragement can be provided to awarding organisations to enable as wide a range of languages as possible to be maintained at GCSE and A level.

The Government has been clear that it wants to see all pupils provided with the opportunity to take a core set of academic subjects, including modern foreign languages. There are considerable benefits to learning a second language and the Government is keen to see the range of languages at GCSE and A level preserved.

As you have noted, the Secretary of State wrote to examination boards in April to express her concern about their decision to cease awarding qualifications in certain languages. She asked awarding organisations to work with Ofqual on the future of these qualifications and committed, if there is no further action, to launching a consultation on how best to secure the future of these qualifications.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

**Nick Gibb MP**