



Education Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 2370 Fax 020 7219 2370 Email: educom@parliament.uk

Website: www.parliament.uk/education-committee Twitter: [@CommonsEd](https://twitter.com/CommonsEd)

From Robert Halfon MP, Chair

Vicky Ford MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings

Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

13 May 2020

Dear Vicky,

As part of our inquiry into the impact of COVID and schools, we are considering the Department's free school meal vouchers scheme and the related guidance issued by the Department.

Looking to the Whitsun school half-term and summer holiday period, can you set out what the Government's plans are for the entitlement to vouchers up to September and whether entitlement will extend to these holiday periods.

We would also be grateful if you could provide us with:

- the latest data on the number of vouchers that have been issued and redeemed by families since the national system has been in operation;
- whether it is your intention that vouchers continue to be delivered through the Edenred platform and if this is deemed to be the primary mechanism for delivering vouchers nationally; and
- full details of the providers and supermarkets participating in the voucher scheme.

Finally, we are also concerned about a significant number of reports from schools and parents about lengthy delays they are experiencing when seeking to obtain vouchers via the Edenred platform. Please confirm what the Department is doing to resolve these delays and issues with the voucher system.

It would be helpful to receive a response by 20 May 2020.

Robert Halfon MP
Chair of the Education Committee