



Public Accounts Committee

Susan Acland-Hood
Permanent Secretary
Department for Education
SW1P 3BT
By email

2 November 2023

ESFA investigations publication policy

Dear Permanent Secretary,

The Public Accounts Committee's 2019 report into Academy accounts and performance found that there was insufficient transparency at the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) about results of inquiries into concerns about the financial management and governance of academy trusts. We therefore welcomed the Government's agreement with recommendation five of our report that the results of all such inquiries would be published within two months of completion, and the ESFA's commitment to transparency of reporting.

I am concerned therefore to find that, as of October this year, the ESFA has withdrawn its investigation publishing policy pending a review. The Committee would be interested to know more about the reasons for the review and would welcome reassurance that the overall commitment to transparency and the timeline for publication will not be compromised in the revised policy document.

I would be grateful for a response by 4 December.

I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Yours Sincerely

Dame Meg Hillier
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts