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5 December 2024

Ms Helen Hayes MP
Chair of the Education Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sir Martyn Oliver
His Majesty's Chief Inspector

Sent by email to: educom@parliament.uk

Dear Ms Hayes

Ofsted Annual Report 2023/24

Today Ofsted has published its Annual Report for 2023/24. This is my first Annual Report since I became His Majesty's Chief Inspector in January. In it, I reflect on the current position of education and children's social care in England, and on changes to Ofsted's work.

Over the past year, we have continued to see dedicated professionals across all of our sectors provide high standards of education and care, transforming the lives of the vast majority of children and learners. However, this is not without challenge and many pressures remain in the education and care systems. Our report details workforce pressures across our sectors and the challenges of matching supply to demand – particularly in children's social care. Attendance issues continue to be a significant concern in schools, and many children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are not receiving the right support at the right time.

There are no silver bullets to address these issues, but many of the problems can be mitigated through joined-up thinking and partnership working, and we have seen some effective examples of this through our work.

At Ofsted, we have a unique position overseeing all of the services that affect a child's life. As I set out at the start of my tenure, one of my priorities is for Ofsted to do more to draw threads together and develop area insights that recognise the context providers are working in, highlight best practice and identify gaps in the system. We are also committed to focusing on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children. I hope our work in this area will also help you in your role as an MP to have a clearer picture of what it's like to be a child in your constituency and region.

Ofsted has a crucial role and, following our Big Listen earlier this year, we have announced several changes to the way we work including the removal of overall effectiveness grades and moving to a more nuanced way of reporting across all of our sectors – starting in education. We will consult on new report cards and a new education inspection framework in early 2025 and we will write to you with more details in the New Year so you can share these with your constituents. Following on from our changes to our education inspections, we hope to introduce similar changes to the way we inspect children’s social care in 2026.

Our 2023/24 Annual Report is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-202324-education-childrens-services-and-skills>.

We are always available if you have any questions about our work, or education and children’s social care provision in your constituency and wider region. I know your Regional Director for London, Caroline Dulon HMI, has been in touch with you previously, and if you would like to meet with her to discuss our report or any other issues, please do not hesitate to contact our Parliamentary team at: parliamentary@ofsted.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sir Martyn Oliver".

Sir Martyn Oliver
His Majesty’s Chief Inspector