



Education Committee

From the Chair
Helen Hayes MP

Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson

Secretary of State
(*Sent via email*)

Wednesday 30 April 2026

Dear Bridget Phillipson,

I am writing further to the Education Select Committee's report, Solving the SEND crisis, which was published on 18 September 2025 and laid before the House on 2 September 2025.

The Department provided an interim response to the report on 11 December 2025, explaining that a full response could not be provided in advance of the publication of the Schools White Paper. The Committee accepted this explanation at the time, on the clear understanding that the publication of the White Paper would enable the Government to respond in full. The Schools White Paper was published more than two months ago, on 23 February 2026. The Committee is now concerned at the long delay in providing a full response to our report.

The Committee considers a timely Government response to be essential to effective parliamentary scrutiny and to enabling Members to assess the Government's position on the report's conclusions and recommendations. The report made 95 conclusions and recommendations, which were widely welcomed across the sector. There is a great deal of interest in the Government's response.

The Government has undertaken to respond to select committee reports within two months of publication. Committee reports stand on their own terms and while we fully understood why the Government would want to wait until the publication of the School White Paper and were happy to accept some leeway in this regard, it should not be the case that the timing of a response is dictated by the convenience of the Government. Given the vital importance of this agenda to children, families and providers, and the

significant time that has now passed since both the publication of the report and the White Paper, I would be grateful if you could confirm when the Committee can expect to receive the Government's full response, and the reasons for this continued delay

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helen Hayes', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Helen Hayes MP
Chair, Education Committee