



Education Committee

From the Chair
Helen Hayes MP

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP

Secretary of State for Education
(Sent via email)

Wednesday 10 June 2026

Dear Bridget,

Government Response to the Education Committee's Report on Historical Forced Adoption

I am writing in relation to your overdue response to the Education Committee's report on Historical Forced Adoption, which was published on 27 March 2026 and followed the 2022 Joint Committee on Human Rights major report on the same subject.

As you will be aware, the Education Committee recently heard deeply moving and often distressing evidence from individuals affected by these horrific practices. The survivors we heard from shared incredibly powerful testimony and recounted the lasting emotional and psychological impact of their experiences. The Committee was grateful for their courage in coming forward. I am mindful of the responsibility that their evidence places upon Parliament, and upon the Government, to ensure their voices are met with meaningful action.

Under the usual arrangements, the Government's response to the Committee's report was due by 27 May 2026. That deadline has now passed and we have not yet received a response.

I would be grateful if the Government could provide its response as a matter of urgency and without further delay. It is particularly important that those who contributed to the inquiry, many of whom have waited a very long time to have their experiences recognised, are not left waiting any longer for the Government's considered response. This is especially the case in respect of the Education Committee's call for the Government to issue an unqualified, formal apology to all those affected by historical forced adoption practices.

Yours sincerely,

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

Helen Hayes MP
Education Committee