Paul Waugh MP
Minister for Early Education

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HELEN HAYES MP
CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON
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3 NOVEMBER 2026

Dear Helen,

HEALTHCARE PROVISION IN EDUCATION SETTINGS

Thank you for your letter of 14th July concerning the delegation of healthcare tasks to education settings.

Supporting children and young people with medical conditions to access education safely and inclusively is a key part of the Department's approach to inclusion.

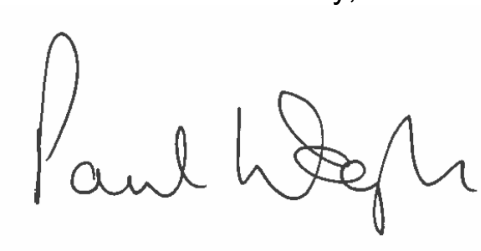
We are well aware of the concerns around the legal basis for clinical delegation. This has been an ongoing topic of discussion with professional associations and school leaders.

When we recently consulted on revised guidance on Supporting children and young people with medical conditions and allergy, many respondents raised concerns over a lack of clarity in the roles and responsibilities of education providers and healthcare services. Respondents emphasised that schools and settings are increasingly expected to support complex medical needs without consistent access to clinical expertise or aligned system support. The need for clearer alignment between education and health systems was a recurring theme, seeking defined responsibilities, consistent access to clinical input, and stronger governance frameworks. Without this alignment, respondents were concerned at the risk of continued variation in practice and unequal experiences for children and young people.

It is essential that any guidance which the Government publishes should present a clear and accurate view of the law on this issue. To this end, the Department for Education is working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS partners to ensure that roles and responsibilities between education and health services are clearly understood and appropriately reflected in the guidance. We will

engage proactively with stakeholders – including professional associations and regulators – before publishing guidance.

Yours sincerely,



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