



Permanent Secretary

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0207 340 7414 permanent.secretary@education.gov.uk

Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

6 July 2021

Government Review of Special Education Needs and Disabilities – Update

Dear Meg,

I am writing to update you on the progress of the cross-Government SEND Review.

The Government's review of the SEND system has made significant progress in identifying the reforms needed to secure lasting and tangible change to the system. These would help to improve the support and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.

As you'll remember, I had previously committed to publishing the SEND Review proposals for public consultation by summer 2021. The pandemic has both unavoidably delayed the pace of the work of this important Review and, crucially, has materially altered the context for reform – this is noted by Amanda Spielman in her most recent report on putting children and young people with SEND at the heart of our recovery plans.

We only have one chance to get this right and have, after careful reflection, decided we should take more time to ensure our reform plans can deliver the systemic change needed. We will be using this time to make certain our plans complement the wider work being done on recovery and school reform, and that they have the longevity needed to offer stability to the sector. We will work at pace over the coming months, so we are in a strong position to publish bold proposals for public consultation. We will continue to draw on the evidence supplied to the Review to date, including the insights from your Committee and the Education Select Committee.

I will of course ensure the Committee is regularly updated on progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Acland-Hood', written in a cursive style.

**SUSAN ACLAND-HOOD
PERMANENT SECRETARY**