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Thank you for your letter of 27 September. I was grateful to receive your invitation to give evidence to the Public Services Committee regarding the Committee's inquiry into the role of public services in addressing child vulnerability. I recognise the importance of this work, and thank the Committee for their continued commitment to this area.

As child vulnerability is a policy area which is shared primarily by the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Education, Ministers and officials from these departments are best placed to provide the detailed evidence that is most relevant to this particular inquiry.

While I am unable to accept this invitation, I look forward to working with the Committee in the future.

Yours Sincerely,

**Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**