

## Written evidence submitted by [a member of the public]

**[Note: This evidence has been redacted by the Committee. Text in square brackets has been inserted where text has been redacted.]**

21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the request from the Parliamentary Education Select Committee for testimonies from citizens about their experiences of Home Education.

My wife and I have 2 young daughters, [name], [age], and [name], [age] years old.

As a [profession] myself, I have always recognised the benefits of Elective Home Education to children.

As a father, I always knew I would consider this option for my own children.

My wife and I did not take the decision lightly, and spoke to many parents who had chosen a Home Education pathway for their own children. My own mother, who is a retired [profession] and [profession], also positively advised us in this direction.

We became convinced that this was the right option for our daughter.

To date, our oldest daughter has been home educated by my wife since [date] up to the present. We plan to continue this for at least the remainder of her primary education.

We believe the home offers a safe and secure environment for a child to thrive with their learning. Furthermore, we believe parents are their children's strongest and most passionate protectors and advocates.

I have no doubt that the one to one attention that my daughter receives on a daily basis is impossible in a state school context. It also allows us to cater specifically to our daughters educational needs as well as allowing for some flexibility with her curriculum, for her to explore her own areas of interests. My Mother who retired from being a [profession] and [profession] last year, has also been able to confirm that our daughter is ahead of where she would be in her respective year, if she had been in state school.

I believe this has been largely due to the ability of my wife, as her mother, to better perceive and respond accurately to our daughters individual strengths and weaknesses, so allowing her to achieve better academic outcomes.

It is our opinion that the Education Select Committee ought to continue to trust parents to care for their own children. There have been many instances of the failings of state-provided intervention whereas Elective Education is predominantly successful for achievement of academic as well as social skills. It would seem to us that the implementation of a statutory register is not a good use of the resources by the state.

We recognised from the outset that the cost of Elective Home Education would represent financially for our family, but as parents, we decided to place the welfare of our children above financial gain.

The primary expectation of my wife and I, from a regulatory framework, is to continue to permit families who choose to Home educate, to cherish their children as described by the 1944 Education Act. Elective Home Education is one of the ways in which we may express our dignity as mature citizens to contribute to the well-being of society.

In relation to the role of inspection, we would not welcome intervention by the state.

It is our strong conviction and understanding of the law of our land, that the state should not stray into areas of personal expression and religious conscience, by attempting to regulate the home.

In closing, I feel that it is important to also highlight that our child's education has not been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as many state educated children have been. This demonstrates that family institutions are more robust in the face of disruption, compared to state institutions.

Yours faithfully

[parents names]

October 2020