



ACCOUNT, Unmonitored <Unmonitored.ACCOUNT@education.gov.uk>

To: Emma Smith

Reply Reply all Forward

Thu 4/2/2026 5:50 PM

You forwarded this message on Thu 4/9/2026 10:59 AM

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Dear Mrs Smith,

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 5th March 2026. You requested the following:

In September 2025, the Education Committee published its report, Solving the SEND Crisis. One of its recommendations (paragraph 285) stated:

"The Department for Education and the Department of Health and Social Care should issue joint statutory guidance clarifying how and when healthcare responsibilities can safely be delegated in schools and multi-academy trusts. This should be produced in collaboration with school and multi-academy trust leaders and health and education unions and set out clear lines of accountability between education and health services, minimum training requirements for school staff, and safeguards to ensure consistent and safe delivery of health interventions for pupils."

In February 2026 (and in July 2025), the DfE confirmed that it was working with the DHSC to develop guidance setting out the roles and responsibilities of education and health partners in meeting the health needs of children and young people in educational settings. At this time, the DfE confirmed that the NHS is responsible for meeting the health needs of children and young people with a diagnosed medical condition in education.

In this context, I would like to request the following:

1. *Authorship and Decision-making*

- Any recorded information that explains why the draft statutory guidance Supporting children and young people with medical conditions and allergy is authored solely by the DfE rather than jointly with the DHSC.
- Any recorded information that sets out how this decision was reached (e.g., internal correspondence, meeting minutes, decision papers, notes, or email discussions).

2. *Stakeholder Involvement*

- A list of all school and MAT leaders, local authority representatives, unions (health and education), professional bodies, regulatory bodies, charities and other stakeholders who were involved in developing the draft statutory guidance.
- Please provide the names of organisations and/or individuals where recorded.

3. *Nature of Stakeholder Engagement*

- Any recorded information describing how these stakeholders were engaged during the development of the draft guidance.
- This may include (where held): timelines, frequency of meetings, engagement format (e.g., workshops, steering groups), and any documents provided by stakeholders to the DfE.

If any of the requested information is held only in part, please provide the portions that can be disclosed. If the request is likely to exceed the cost limit, please advise how this request may be refined.

I would prefer to receive the information in electronic format via email.

I am dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

The Department holds the information you have requested. However, I consider that the following exemption applies to your request:

S.35 - formulation of government policy

The Act obliges the Department to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, where the exemption listed above is applicable, the Department must consider whether the public interest lies in disclosing or withholding the information. In these circumstances the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days.

In your case the Department estimates that it will take an additional 20 working days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. It is anticipated that you will receive a full response by 4th April 2026. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me via the DfE [contact form](#) on GOV.UK. Please remember to quote the reference number **2026-0058937** in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the Department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, which were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the Department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely,

SEND and Alternative Provision Schools Team
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT



Department
for Education