



Lord Agnew Kt DL

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
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Clive Betts MP
Chair
Housing, Communities
And Local Government Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

23rd August 2018

Dear Mr Betts,

Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper

I understand from Lord Bourne that your committee recently took evidence from him and Dame Louise Casey about the Green Paper, and during the evidence session questions arose about this departments consultation and call for evidence on elective home education. The consultation was mentioned in the Green Paper, although not the call for evidence, which was only agreed across government at a later stage. I am happy to provide some further information as requested, and we welcome your Committee's interest in this important aspect of integration.

The consultation opened on 10 April and closed on 2 July. We received just over 3,000 responses, the great majority being from individuals rather than organisations. Work on this is now being taken forward on two fronts. We published draft revised guidance documents for local authorities and parents; officials are now working up further versions of these for ministerial consideration and eventual publication on the gov.uk website to replace the current (2007) departmental guidance.

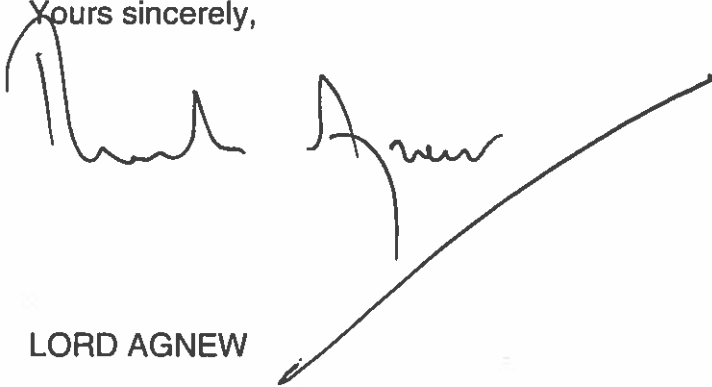
The call for evidence asked for information and comment about the issues of registration, monitoring and support for home educating families. The responses are being analysed externally and this process will take until the end of September. Thereafter, we shall be considering a formal government response document which will set out what we propose to do in terms of any possible changes to the current framework.

Your committee is naturally interested in the timescale for this. We would currently hope to publish the revised guidance documents at some stage in October and the government response to the call for evidence by early December. I must emphasise that there are no fixed dates for these, and much depends on factors such as cross-government clearance.

I hope that this is helpful to members of your committee.

I am also copying this letter to Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lord Agnew', is written over a long, thin diagonal line that extends from the bottom left towards the top right of the page.

LORD AGNEW