SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM

Special Educational Consortium
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Alison Ismail
Director, SEN and Disability and Alternative Provision
Department for Education

Dear Alison Ismail

I am writing to you on behalf of the Special Educational Consortium (SEC) about the recent Department for Education's (DfE) response to the Public Accounts Committee, and our willingness to strengthen our role as one of the Department's valued consultative partners on SEN and Disability issues.

SEC represents 45 organisations in the field of SEN and Disability and has been a consultation partner since 1992; our aim is to ensure all disabled children and young people, and those with SEN, have right to an education that helps them to reach their full potential.

In advance of the publication of a Paper, which we prefer should be a Green Paper with a consultation process, the DfE response to the PAC report was published. We were pleased to see that the DfE agreed with the recommendation by PAC. At the same time, we were concerned to see the timescales proposed, as we would have expected more urgent action in response to the very serious position we find ourselves in.

SEC has had a long and productive relationship with the DfE during the formation of policy and legislative changes in the past, and we would urge the DfE to involve SEC as a strategic consultation partner on the upcoming SEN and Disability reforms. We, of course, will respond to any publications from the DfE, but feel we can add more benefit to the development of policy if we are part of the group of consultees who help the DfE to shape policy proposals.

SEC is uniquely positioned to provide a consensus view on SEN and Disability related issues, by drawing on the wide range of perspectives of our members' organisations. SEC has representation from parent carer groups, trade unions, professional associations, and organisations that represent a wide range of special educational needs and Disabilities (including physical disability and neurodisability). The professional and personal expertise represented in our membership is extensive, and we are united in advocating for reform based on best practice, equity, and positive outcomes for all disabled children and those with SEN, and their families.

We look forward to working proactively with the Department over the coming weeks and hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Diana Robinson

Diana Robinson
SEC Chair

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