



Rt Hon Ed Balls MP
Secretary of State

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Dear *Graham*

I am writing to set out my full response to the Review of Elective Home Education in England which you sent to me on 11 June. In my initial response I welcomed your comprehensive and thoughtful review, and undertook to take the first steps towards putting in place a system of registration and monitoring.

Home education is an established part of the British education system, and home educators need our support. Your report highlighted the difficult circumstances that many home educators face and you made a persuasive case for putting in place better support for home educated children as well as requiring local authorities to take a more strategic approach to the services they provide to home educators in their area. The arguments in the your report for giving home educated families better access to public services are strong particularly where a child or young person has special educational needs, or wants to attend an FE College, or take public examinations. Our response will deliver support for those that want it, and will make a substantial difference to the level of services local authorities can provide for children with special educational needs, and for those young people who want access to examination centres and college courses.

Home education should be a positive choice for parents. It cannot be right that some home educators feel that they have had to remove their children from school because of bullying or because a school is not catering for their child's special educational needs. For this reason the report sets out how we will plan to require local authorities to analyse carefully the reasons that parents choose to home educate, and to examine carefully the services and support they need.

Your report highlights the importance of training local authority officers to understand the full range of approaches home educators adopt, as well as providing a secure grounding in safeguarding practice. We recognise that good quality training will



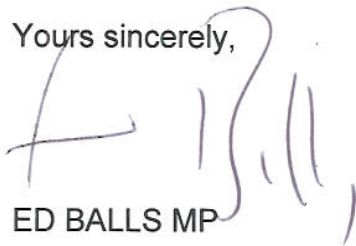
children, schools and families

embed the changes you have set out in your report, and help develop the partnerships between local authorities and home educating parents that are needed to keep every child safe and learning well.

Our full response also reiterates our support for statutory arrangements for registration and monitoring. We believe that our proposals strike the right balance between autonomy for home educators and sufficient monitoring to ensure that home educated children are safe and receiving a suitable education. Our proposals are currently the subject of a public consultation which closes on 19 October, and we will pay careful attention to the large number of responses we receive.

A copy of our full response is attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Balls', written over the printed name 'ED BALLS MP'.

ED BALLS MP