

Flexischooling Correspondence Department for Education March April 2013 (chronological)

this file is here <http://edyourself.org/flexischoolmarchapril.pdf> on this page
<http://edyourself.org/articles/flexischooling.php>

via

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/flexischooling_correspondence_ma#followup

From: Fiona Nicholson

11 June 2013

I should now like to narrow my request and ask only for communications within the Department on the subject of flexischooling during March and April 2013.

Yours faithfully,
Fiona Nicholson

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 01 March 2013 08:54
To: (junior officials name removed) JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed) HURDLE, Andy
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling
Importance: High

(junior officials name removed)

Further to your email below and our subsequent telephone conversation last night.

PCU are happy to draft these cases on receipt of the cleared lines.

At present the cases are held in a central mailbox awaiting logging on Echo. In order for responses to be produced the cases need to be logged under a Directorate, Policy Area and Primary Issue.

Please can you confirm whether the cases should be classified under IFD, Independent Education and School Governance, Elective Home Education or ESD, Behaviour and Attendance in Schools, Attendance and Absence?

As the clock is already ticking on these cases; PCU only has 15 days from receipt of the correspondence to respond, I would welcome confirmation as soon as possible.

As requested, the PCU contacts for Home Education are (junior officials name removed) who are based in Darlington.

Many thanks for all your assistance with these cases.

Kind regards

(junior officials name removed)

ESD Correspondence Account

Ministerial and Public Communications Division
Children's Services and Departmental Strategy Directorate

Web: www.education.gov.uk
Twitter: www.twitter.com/educationgovuk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/educationgovuk

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 01 March 2013 09:23
To: QIL, PCU
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: Desktop record 1502

Morning Qil

I have just spoken to (junior officials name removed) re desktop record 1502: Elective home education.

He has asked if we can email it to him urgently so he can update as the new guidance on attendance came out last Friday and the advice on the record is incorrect.

Many thanks

(junior officials name removed)
ARRC Rapid Response
Ministerial and Public Communications Division
Area 1C
Castle View House
Runcorn

As long as it's not "lost" in the documents – must be visible as an addendum – clarification on flexi-schooling.

Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: QIL, PCU
Sent: 01 March 2013 09:54
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Desktop record 1502

Hi (junior officials name removed)

As per email below here is the record we use for information on the national line.

Regards.

(junior officials name removed)
REDACTED

(junior officials name removed)
Quality Improvement and Learning Team
Public Communications Unit
Castle View House
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 2GJ
www.education.gov.uk

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 01 March 2013 10:33
To: (junior officials name removed); JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed) HURDLE, Andy
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

(junior officials name removed) All correspondences to do with flexi-schooling should be logged under Penny's division (IFD) unless they are solely about attendance codes and registration. I attach the lines and draft letter cleared by the Minister. This can be adapted to most of the responses PCU have received on the issue but where you and colleagues need further input from policy teams (attendance and EHE), please pass them on. Please can you ask colleagues in PCU not to use the old lines on flexi-schooling when responding to either phone calls or correspondence? If in doubt, please ask.

Given that we are more than likely to receive a large volume of queries on this issue, I would suggest that PCU ask people to write in where appropriate to enable us to fully answer their queries.

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 01 March 2013 10:44
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed) HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

Many thanks (junior officials name removed)

I will let the logging team know.

I will also send the information to the team who manages the National Line, so that our phone agents can be informed.

Kind regards

(junior officials name removed)

ESD Correspondence Account
Ministerial and Public Communications Division
Children's Services and Departmental Strategy Directorate
Web: www.education.gov.uk
Twitter: www.twitter.com/educationgovuk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/educationgovuk

-----Original Appointment-----

From: (junior officials name removed) On Behalf Of JONES, Penny

Sent: 04 March 2013 13:08

To: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: Flexi-Schooling

When: 06 March 2013 16:00-17:00 (UTC) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: SB Room 3.04/MH LG03 - mtg by vc

Hello All

Meeting to discuss flexi-schooling as requested by (junior officials name removed).

This will be by video conference. Penny/(junior officials name removed) will do the dial up to SB 3.04.

(If there are difficulties with the link - would (junior officials name removed) please log into the phone in MG LG 03 and a London colleague dial (junior officials name removed) number).

(junior officials name removed) indicated that it would be either (junior officials name removed) attending from Press Office, I would be grateful if you would let (junior officials name removed) know which of you it will be.

Any queries please just contact me.

Regards

(junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: 04 March 2013 13:10

To: JONES, Penny

Cc: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling

Please can you invite (junior officials name removed) who leads for press office.

Many thanks,

(junior officials name removed)

From: JONES, Penny

Sent: 04 March 2013 13:16

To: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: FW: Flexi-Schooling

please

Penny Jones
Deputy Director
Independent Education and School Governance Division
www.education.gov.uk

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 06 March 2013 08:52
To: (junior officials name removed); CORRESPONDENCE, PCU
Cc: (junior officials name removed); JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling [LT] LK

Many thanks. The revised version is now available to PCU drafters.

Kind regards

(junior officials name removed)

(junior officials name removed)
IFD Correspondence Manager
Ministerial and Public Communications Division
Strategy, Performance and Private Office Group

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 12 March 2013 06:50
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: APPG 19 MARCH

(junior officials name removed)

I shall be on leave after this Thursday so if instructions for this event have not arrived by then you will need to let me have them by phone

It does occur to me that there might be a case for me to accompany you and Penny to see Graham Stuart, if he is likely to go on about the funding aspects (SEN, flexi-schooling) on which he has received recent letters from Liz Truss.

(junior officials name removed)
Funding Policy Unit

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 14 March 2013 14:40
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: FW: Flexi schooling - Liz Truss' telephone meeting with Graham Stuart on 12/03/2013
Can I have the consultation version of the guidance please?

Thanks

Andy
Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 14 March 2013 14:42
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: FW: Flexi schooling - Liz Truss' telephone meeting with Graham Stuart on 12/03/2013

Please can you respond to Andy

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 14 March 2013 14:53
To: HURDLE, Andy
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi schooling - Liz Truss' telephone meeting with Graham Stuart on 12/03/2013

Andy

Please see attached version of the guidance that went to consultation.

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team | Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 14 March 2013 15:21
To: (junior officials name removed) HALNAN, Penny-LAO; JONES, Penny;
Cc: RUSSELL, David
Subject: FW: Flexi schooling - Liz Truss' telephone meeting with Graham Stuart on 12/03/2013

Colleagues – attached is my first go at a one-page note to be published on the DfE website. REDACTED

Andy
Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 15 March 2013 10:08
To: PS, Truss
Cc: (junior officials name removed); JONES, Penny
Subject: RE: Flexi schooling - Liz Truss' telephone meeting with Graham Stuart on 12/03/2013

(junior officials name removed) - this is the consultation version of the attendance guidance that Graham Stuart asked for. Are you able to send it over to him?

(junior officials name removed) - do we need to send this as a PDF rather than a word document?

Andy

Andy Hurdle
Deputy Director, Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT
www.education.gov.uk

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 02:45 PM GMT Standard Time
To: PS, Truss; PRIVATE, LT
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: Flexi-Schooling - DRAFT one-page note for website

(junior officials name removed) - you said the Minister wanted to see a draft of the note officials are working on - recognising that there are on-going clearances needed, including by legal advisers. The attached therefore is not yet approved or cleared but is intended to allow the Minister the opportunity to comment on the tone, balance of messaging and length etc...

Many thanks,

Andy
Andy Hurdle
Deputy Director, Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 15 March 2013 15:41
To: HURDLE, Andy; PS, Truss
Cc: JONES, Penny
Subject: RE: Flexi schooling - Liz Truss' telephone meeting with Graham Stuart on 12/03/2013

A PDF would be better.
(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 04:37 PM GMT Standard Time
To: PRIVATE, LT; PS, Truss
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling - DRAFT one-page note for website

Attached is a shorter version.

Andy
Andy Hurdle
Deputy Director, Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street

London SW1P 3BT
www.education.gov.uk

From: PS, Truss
Sent: 18 March 2013 11:10
To: HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny; PS, Truss
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling - DRAFT one-page note for website

Both,

Grateful if you could provide me with an update as to where we are with this – the Minister is very keen to see something mid-afternoon and has been asking about progress following the discussions below.

Kind regards,

(junior officials name removed)
Assistant Private Secretary to Elizabeth Truss MP

Web: www.education.gov.uk

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 18 March 2013 11:13
To: HURDLE, Andy
Subject: FW: Flexi-Schooling - DRAFT one-page note for website

Pls can Andy call me. I am only free until 1

Penny Jones
Deputy Director
Independent Education and School Governance Division
www.education.gov.uk

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 18 March 2013 12:45
To: PS, Truss; PRIVATE, LT
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: Flexi-Schooling

Penny Jones and I are both agreed on the attached revised note. It has not been cleared by Funding Policy or lawyers yet.

Andy
Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 18 March 2013 12:46
To: HURDLE, Andy; PS, Truss; PRIVATE, LT
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling

Please can (junior officials name removed) be copied in as he is bearing the brunt of flexi-schooling unhappiness.

Penny Jones
Deputy Director
Independent Education and School Governance Division
www.education.gov.uk

From: PRIVATE, LT
Sent: 18 March 2013 14:22
To: HURDLE, Andy; PS, Truss
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling

I am happy with this. We need to check it with Henry Dezoete too.

Best

(junior officials name removed)

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 21 March 2013 10:06
To: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling (SoS) HYG

The meeting with advisers is supposed to be happening today. I'd hold finalising anything until after that.

Andy
Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Sent: 21 March 2013 10:20
To: HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed) PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling (SoS) HYG

Dear Penny and Andy,

As you advise, we will hold on all flexi-school cases until after meeting with advisors today.

It would be very helpful if we could finalise some text before last boxes on Tuesday though – we currently have 30 cases in for response on this topic, most of which will go late before the end of recess.

Thanks,

(junior officials name removed)
Private Office Correspondence Management Team
www.education.gov.uk

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 22 March 2013 15:12
To: COOK, Henry; PRIVATE, LT; PS, Truss
Cc: MILLAND, Gabriel; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed) PS, Advisers
Subject: URGENT - Flexi-Schooling - Amended Draft for approval

Henry – thanks for discussing.

Are you and the Minister content with this revised version?

Andy
Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: PRIVATE, LT
Sent: 22 March 2013 15:15
To: HURDLE, Andy; COOK, Henry; PS, Truss
Cc: MILLAND, Gabriel; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed); PS, Advisers
Subject: Re: URGENT - Flexi-Schooling - Amended Draft for approval

Yes - that's fine with me

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 22 March 2013 15:57
To: HURDLE, Andy
Cc: (junior officials name removed); JONES, Penny
Subject: flexi advice template

While we are awaiting can you confirm you are happy with the template attached, which the text will be dropped into

(junior officials name removed)

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 22 March 2013 16:03
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: flexi advice template

No, really don't want this big thing. It's three paras and isn't advice – it's a clarification attached to existing advice, not new advice.

I'm just waiting for Henry Cook.

Andy
Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 22 March 2013 16:05
To: HURDLE, Andy
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: flexi advice template

That was my original inclination and I had prepared it as a simple one page sheet but the web team have told me that they will not publish any advice which is not in the standard format. I pointed out that this was a direct ministerial request but that did not move them. Although we can do our own web site changes they have to be approved by the web team before they go live.

(junior officials name removed)

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 22 March 2013 16:07
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: flexi advice template

Let's try and sort – it's not new advice – it's an addendum to two separate documents. Can (junior officials name removed) talk to web folk and try and resolve – we need the same treatment on each webpage.

Andy
Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 22 March 2013 16:24
To: HURDLE, Andy
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: flexi advice template

If (junior officials name removed) wants to talk to (junior officials name removed) in the web team very happy for him to do so. It may be that the only solution is to actually put the text into the main documents

From: COOK, Henry
Sent: 22 March 2013 16:47
To: PRIVATE, LT; HURDLE, Andy; PS, Truss
Cc: MILLAND, Gabriel; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)PS, Advisers

Subject: RE: URGENT - Flexi-Schooling - Amended Draft for approval

Also fine with me. Thanks Andy,
Henry

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 22 March 2013 16:51
To: COOK, Henry; PRIVATE, LT; PS, Truss
Cc: MILLAND, Gabriel; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed) PS, Advisers
Subject: RE: URGENT - Flexi-Schooling - Amended Draft for approval

Excellent – thanks all.

Andy
Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Sent: 22 March 2013 17:32
To: HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling (SoS) HYG

Hi Andy,

I just wanted to follow up and ask if there had been any further progress on the position re flexi-schooling following the meeting with advisors?

Thank you very much,

(junior officials name removed)
Private Office Correspondence Management Team
www.education.gov.uk

From: PS, Truss
Sent: 22 March 2013 17:53
To: HURDLE, Andy; PRIVATE, LT; COOK, Henry; PS, Truss
Cc: MILLAND, Gabriel; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)PS, Advisers
Subject: RE: URGENT - Flexi-Schooling - Amended Draft for approval

Thanks very much, Andy. This has gone to Graham Stuart's office now.

Have a good weekend, everyone.

(junior officials name removed)
Private Secretary to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 22 March 2013 17:32
To: PRIVATE, LT; COOK, Henry; PS, Truss

Cc: MILLAND, Gabriel; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed) PS, Advisers
Subject: RE: URGENT - Flexi-Schooling - Amended Draft for approval

Thanks all – this is now live and the guidance has been updated to remove the necessary para.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/a00223239/clarification-on-flexi-schooling>

(junior officials name removed) – can you send the link to Graham Stuart's office?

Andy
Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 25 March 2013 10:24
To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling (SoS) HYG

Attached is the clarification published on Friday.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/a00223239/clarification-on-flexi-schooling>

Andy
Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Sent: 25 March 2013 10:37
To: HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling (SoS) HYG

Dear Penny and Andy,

We have reformatted the advice into letter structure – are you happy to clear?

Thanks,

(junior officials name removed)
Private Office Correspondence Management Team
www.education.gov.uk

From: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Sent: 27 March 2013 19:00
To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam; HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling (SoS) HYG

Hi Penny and Andy,

I was wondering if you have had a chance to have a look at and clear/make comments on the attached revised flexi-schooling lines to use for the campaign on this?

Many thanks,

(junior officials name removed)| Lead drafter for Elizabeth Truss MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare
Private Office Correspondence Management Team (POCMT)
Department for Education, 7th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 28 March 2013 07:50
To: HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed); PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling (SoS) HYG

Andy/Penny

The draft is basically just the same as the 22 March clarification so I hope you can agree to it? We need it not just for POs but also so that PCU can deal with campaign letters

(junior officials name removed)
Independent Education and Boarding Team
Department for Education

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 28 March 2013 07:55
To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: FW: Flexischooling Briefing Paper

The attached paper, in discussing flexi-schooling, contains a statement that the 22 March clarification unlawfully reinterprets code B. It would be useful to have your observations although since we have been sent this only for information no immediate response is needed

(junior officials name removed)
Independent Education and Boarding Team
Department for Education

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 28 March 2013 12:05
To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam; HURDLE, Andy

Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling (SoS) HYG

I am content

Penny Jones
Deputy Director
Independent Education and School Governance Division
www.education.gov.uk

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 28 March 2013 15:12
To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam; JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-Schooling (SoS) HYG

This is consistent with our earlier line as published on the website.

Andy

Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 31 March 2013 12:56
To: (junior officials name removed); CORRESPONDENCE, PCU
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: FW: Flexi-Schooling (SoS) HYG

Revised advice on flexi-schooling was published on 22 March and this has now been re-formatted by PO correspondence into the attached for use in replies. This has been cleared by both Penny Jones and Andy Hurdle, DDs of the two Divisions involved. Please use for any replies on flexi-schooling from now on, including any that complain about replies from us issued earlier which are based on the advice issued on 22 February

Thanks

(junior officials name removed)
Independent Education and Boarding Team
Department for Education

-----Original Appointment-----

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 02 April 2013 10:43
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: Accepted: Flexi-schooling policy
When: 08 April 2013 12:00-13:00 (UTC) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where: SB room 6.09 and MF GF Area A

(junior officials name removed)

It would be helpful to include (junior officials name removed).

(junior officials name removed) – would you be able to provide the latest submission you prepared on flexi schooling for background?

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 02 April 2013 13:07
To: JONES, Penny
Subject: RE: Flexi-schooling policy

Hi Penny

I have invited (junior officials name removed). Hopefully the room will still be big enough (I think it says it's for 2 on the description of the room).

(junior officials name removed) should be calling you on the video conference. I'm on leave next week but I'm sure (junior officials name removed) will update me.

Best wishes
(junior officials name removed)

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 02 April 2013 13:08
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi-schooling policy

Room is plenty big enough – thanks for sorting out
Penny Jones
Deputy Director
Independent Education and School Governance Division
www.education.gov.uk

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 02 April 2013 15:41
To: (junior officials name removed) JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: Flexischooling meeting - LAO?

Dear colleagues

I just wanted to check whether we need to involve LAO at next week's flexi school meeting? I would be grateful if you could let me know what you think. If we do need LAO to attend, it would be helpful if you were able to let me know who the best contact might be.

Many thanks

(junior officials name removed)
Funding Policy Unit - Pupil Premium Funding
Department for Education

A: Level 4, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 02 April 2013 15:47
To: (junior officials name removed) JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexischooling meeting - LAO?

I should think so. (junior officials name removed) deals with this, or (junior officials name removed)

(junior officials name removed)
Independent Education and Boarding Team
Department for Education

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 04 April 2013 16:35
To: (junior officials name removed) JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy;
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: Flexischooling - meeting preparation

Dear colleagues

In preparation for the flexi schooling meeting next week, please find attached a list of proposed questions (most of which we will hopefully answer in the meeting) and some additional background information on REDACTED which (junior officials name removed) has helpfully put together.

Best wishes

(junior officials name removed)
Funding Policy Unit - Pupil Premium Funding
Department for Education

A: Level 4, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.