

Consultation on draft regulations to apply section 62A of the Education Act 2002 to Pupil Referral Units

Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 27 April 2007

Your comments must reach us by that date.

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education and skills

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THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online or offline response facility available on the Department for Education and Skills e-consultation website (<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations>).

The information you provide in your response will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations, which allow public access to information held by the Department. This does not necessarily mean that your response can be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box provided, but you should note that neither this, nor an automatically-generated e-mail confidentiality statement, will necessarily exclude the public right of access.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.

Name	Dr. Helen Paterson
Organisation (if applicable)	The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS)
Address:	Humanities Building – Devas Street University of Manchester Oxford Road Manchester. M13 9PL

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact Aimi Bleasdale on:

Telephone: 020 7925 7414

e-mail: aimi.bleasdale@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on:

Telephone: 01928 794888

Fax: 01928 794 311

e-mail: consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Which of the following best describes you?

<input type="checkbox"/> Local authority	<input type="checkbox"/> PRU Teacher-in-charge	<input type="checkbox"/> PRU management committee member
<input type="checkbox"/> PRU staff	<input type="checkbox"/> School Headteacher or Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisation involved in alternative provision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other		

Please Specify:

National organisation representing statutory directors of children's and services and other senior children's services professionals in leadership roles in England.

1 Please indicate how far you agree that the Secretary of State should be able to direct a local authority to obtain advisory services in relation to PRUs:

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

Comments:
As is the case for maintained schools, where a PRU has 'serious weaknesses' or a 'notice to improve', the local authority has responsibilities to produce and execute a 'LA Statement of Action' to provide effective support and challenge to bring about rapid improvement. Such a plan does not necessarily exclude brokering support/services from outside the LA.

2 The power will apply where a PRU requires Special Measures or Significant Improvement and either (i) the Secretary of State believes that the local authority has not been, or is unlikely to be, effective in securing improvements, or (ii) the local authority has a disproportionate number of units which fall in that category. How far do you agree that these are the right circumstances in which the power should apply?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

Comments:

In so far as LA's are quality assured through a number of processes (APA, JAR, CPA) including its functions in delivering high quality education and care, it seems pertinent to apply such powers only where there is strong empirical evidence that an LA is incapable of acting appropriately. Ofsted inspection framework as it currently exists, does not sufficiently well allow for PRUs to demonstrate effectively how they support the learning and welfare of children by using achievement and progress as key indicators.

3 Please provide below any further comments you have on these regulations:

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply x

Here at the Department for Education and Skills we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

Yes

No

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

Further information on the Code of Practice can be accessed through the Cabinet Office Website: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation-guidance/content/introduction/index.asp>

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 27 April 2007

Send by post to: Aimi Bleasdale, Department for Education and Skills, Area 3C Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

Send by e-mail to: aimi.bleasdale@dfes.gsi.gov.uk