

Key Stage 3 Test Absence Collection

Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 21
December 2007

Your comments must reach us by that date.

department for
children, schools and families

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.dcsf.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	Steve Beynon
Organisation (if applicable)	Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS)
Address:	Ellen Wilkinson Building University of Manchester Oxford Road Manchester. M13 9PL

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

Telephone: 020 7925 6786

e-mail: denise.hosking@dcsgsi.gov.uk

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

Telephone: 01928 794888

Fax: 01928 794113

e-mail: consultation.unit@dcsgsi.gov.uk

Please tick the box below which best describes you as a respondent:

<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Headteacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Governor / Governing Body
<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Union / Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Body including Educational Body
<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Supply Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	

Please Specify: Association of Directors of Children's Services
ADCS is the national leadership organisation in England for directors of children's services appointed under the provisions of the *Children Act 2004* and for other children's services professional in leadership roles. The Association provides a national voice as a champion for children, with local and central government, and with the public.

Please tick the type of organisation that you represent:

<input type="checkbox"/> Secondary School	<input type="checkbox"/> Academy	<input type="checkbox"/> Special School
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Supply Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Union / Association
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		

Please Specify: Local Authority Directors of Children's Services and other senior children's services leaders in England

1 Are you in favour of the method proposed in Section 6 for collecting the reasons for test absence from schools with KS3 test absence levels of 5% or above of the cohort for two consecutive years?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments: The rationale in the consultation is sound and this should support schools is being self critical regarding pupil absence during KS3 tests

2 Are there any points you would like to make in relation to the proposed method?

Comments: Any request to schools must be within the agreed protocol of reducing the bureaucratic burden placed on schools. However, we do find that schools should readily have this information.

3 If you would like to suggest any alternative method for collecting the reasons for KS3 test absence, please give details in the box below.

Comments: None

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

Here at the Department for children, schools, and families 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?

xYes 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 21 December 2007

Send by post to: Consultation Unit, Department for Children Schools and Families, Area 1A, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2GJ

Send by e-mail to ks3testabsence.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk