

Home Access to Technology

Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 2 April
2008

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 Children, Schools and Families 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

Organisation (if applicable)

Address:

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

Telephone: 0207 273 4974

e-mail: james.ashbridge@dcsh.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@dcsh.gov.uk

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Young person (age 19 and under)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/carer/guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> School/college staff/governor (please state your role)
<input type="checkbox"/> Local authority and regional support staff (please state your role)	<input type="checkbox"/> Union/professional body	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary/community/independent organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade association/guild/federation	<input type="checkbox"/> Public sector organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

Please Specify:

1 Evidence suggests that access to, and appropriate use of technology in the home benefits all family members. Should this access and use be encouraged by government?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

2 There is also evidence that suggests that a child's level of attainment, and breadth of educational experience, may increase as a result of their appropriate use of technology, including in the home. Do you agree appropriate use of technology in the home can achieve this?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

3 There are risks involved with providing access to the internet for families. Some may be more vulnerable than others to these risks and dangers. It is intended to provide clear minimum safety standards for home access solutions for families and guidance to parents so they can support their children to have a safe internet experience. Do you agree that encouraging safe family internet use should be a priority for government even if this raises the cost of home access solutions?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

The majority of families have purchased a computer, similar device and/or connectivity for use in the home but a significant minority of families still lack home internet access. Government is keen to encourage and where necessary support all families to have home internet access.

4 a) Given the evidence about the benefits of home access, should government encourage all parents to provide access to the internet in the home for their children?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

4 b) Whilst government might encourage all parents to provide home access, it has been proposed that any financial assistance should be made available only to families from the lowest income groups to provide a computer (or other similar device) and an ongoing internet connection. Do you agree that any government funding should be targeted at the most disadvantaged families?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

4 c) If financial support is provided for low income and disadvantaged families which covers all or part of the cost of a home access solution, should these families own the devices that they may contribute towards or should they lease/borrow from a central agency or other organisation?

Own

Lease/borrow

Not Sure

Comments:

5 Given the evidence that home access to the internet has a positive impact on educational attainment, should all parents be encouraged to view technology in the home as an important part of their children's education?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

6 Government is keen that the opportunities for learning in the home are maximised for all pupils without placing undue burdens on the education profession. What steps should be taken to ensure that any burden is kept to a minimum?

Comments:

7 It is felt that a third party organisation may have a key part to play in ensuring consistent national quality of helpline, applications and payments services to families. This would support schools and colleges in delivering the aims of this programme. This would also ensure that maximum value for money and other efficiencies are achieved. What type of organisation/body should be responsible for these functions?

Central Government

Contracted Commercial Organisation

Central Agency

Charity

Local Authority

Other (please specify)

Comments:

8 There may be an important strategic role for Local Authorities, in supporting schools in their locality, to ensure maximum benefit for learners and their families. Is it appropriate for Local Authorities to be requested to undertake this strategic role?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

9 It is proposed that a list of equipment, which meets minimum functional requirements, is provided to guide acquisition of appropriate technology. Is this the right approach to take?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

10 It is recognised that the technology industry has a role to play in enabling the sustainable success of home access. What role or functions is it appropriate for government to expect industry to undertake?

Comments:

11 Please use the space below for any other comments.

Comments:

12 Please let us have your views on responding to this consultation (e.g. the number and type of questions, was it easy to find, understand and complete etc).

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

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?

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 2 April 2008

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: home-access.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

