



Consultation on the Draft Education (Maintained Special Schools) (Amendment) (England) Regulations

Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is 28 November 2003

The information you send us may need to be passed to colleagues within the Department for Education and Skills and/or published in a summary of responses received in response to this consultation. We will assume that you are content for us to do this, and that if you are replying by e-mail, your consent overrides any confidentiality disclaimer that is generated by your organisation's IT system, unless you specifically include a request to the contrary in the main text of your submission to us.

The Department may, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, make available on public request, individual consultation responses. This will extend to your comments unless you inform us that you wish them to remain confidential.

Please insert 'X' 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 Richard McElheran in the Department's Special Educational Needs Division:

Telephone:

01325 391203

Fax:

01325 392249

Email:

richard.mcelheran@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

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

Telephone:

01928 794888

Fax:

01928 794 311

E-mail:

Consultation.Unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Please insert 'X' in **one** of the following boxes that best describes you as a respondent.

School

Professional Body

SEN Body

Local Government Organisation

SEN or disability interest group

Government Department or
Non-Departmental Public Body

Other (please specify)

Question 1

In your opinion, will these Amendment Regulations cover all changes necessary to the existing Maintained Special Schools Regulations?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Question 2

Are there any areas which you think have been omitted or neglected? Please give details below.

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Question 3

Do you agree that Regulation 8 of the existing Maintained Special Schools Regulations should not be amended as per the new regulations on proposals relating to mainstream schools to reduce the objection period for most proposals from two months to six weeks?

Agree

Disagree

Not Sure

Comments:

Question 4

Do you agree that the quality of proposals will be increased by the new requirements in the reframed Schedule 3 for proposers to provide more detailed additional information with them? (Schedule 3)

Agree

Disagree

Not Sure

Comments:

Question 5

With respect to proposals for opening and closing schools and discontinuing sixth forms, do you consider it reasonable to expect proposers to provide information on their consultations with the relevant Strategic Health Authority and NHS Trusts and, also, on the likely impact of the proposals regionally? (Schedule 3, Parts III, V and VI.)

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Question 6

Is it reasonable to expect proposers to assess the likely impact regionally of proposals to make prescribed alterations to schools? (Schedule 3, Part IV)

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Question 7

Do the draft regulations require proposers to provide the most appropriate information with respect to proposals to discontinue sixth forms? (Schedule 3, Part VI)

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Question 8

Please use this space for any general comments that you may have, comments on the layout of this consultation would be welcomed also.

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you tick the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply

The Department for Education and Skills undertakes research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would you allow us please to contact you again from time to time for the purposes of research or to send consultation documents?

Yes

No

Code of Practice on written consultation

The following seven standards from the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on written consultation should be reproduced in all consultation documents. This is binding on Departments. Ministers' reasons for any departures should be explained.

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

1. Timing of consultation should be built into the planning process for a policy (including legislation) or service from the start, so that it has the best prospect of improving the proposals concerned, and so that sufficient time is left at each stage.
2. It should be clear who is being consulted, about what questions, in what timescale and for what purpose.
3. A consultation document should be as simple and concise as possible. It should include a summary, in two pages at most, of the main questions it seeks views on. It should make it as easy as possible for readers to respond, make contact or complain.
4. Documents should be made widely available, with the fullest use of electronic means (though not to the exclusion of others), and effectively drawn to the attention of all interested groups and individuals.
5. Sufficient time should be allowed for considered responses from all groups with an interest. Twelve weeks should be the standard minimum period for a consultation.
6. Responses should be carefully and open-mindedly analysed, and the results made widely available, with an account of the views expressed, and the reasons for decisions finally taken.
7. Departments should monitor and evaluate consultations, designating a consultation Co-ordinator who will ensure the lessons are disseminated.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation.

Completed questionnaires and other responses, should be sent to the address shown below by **28 November 2003**

Send by post to: **Consultation Unit, Level 1, Area B, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn WA7 2GJ**

Send by e-mail: Once you have completed the questionnaire, save it on your hard drive and then open an e-mail to: **MSS.REGSCONSULTATION@dfes.gsi.gov.uk**, attach the completed questionnaire file and send the e-mail.