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17 December 2018

Geraint Davies MP  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
SW1A 0AA

**Amanda Spielman**  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

*Dear Geraint*

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 201090:**

*To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans (a) Ofsted and (b) the Care Quality Commission have to automatically require a written statement of action where joint commissioning arrangements for speech, language and communication needs and related needs, including (i) social, (ii) emotional and (iii) mental health, are classified as inadequate.*

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspect local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Inspectors gather and evaluate evidence about how well a local area fulfils its duties under the Children and Families Act and regulations such as the SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years.

The SEND code of practice makes it clear that, 'Local authorities and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) must make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities'.

The impact of joint commissioning is considered carefully by inspectors when they are making judgements about the effectiveness of a local area's arrangements. For example, in reviewing the effectiveness of a local area's approach to improving outcomes, inspectors evaluate the impact of jointly commissioned specialist educational, medical and therapeutic services.

Local areas are required to produce and submit a written statement of action when inspectors identify significant weaknesses in the effectiveness of the local area's arrangements.

While Ofsted and the CQC have no plans to *automatically* require a written statement of action where there are concerns about joint commissioning arrangements for speech, language and communication needs and related needs, should there be *significant weaknesses* in this area of a local area's arrangements, it is likely that this would result in a request for a written statement of action.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Spielman".

**Amanda Spielman**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector