30 November 2018

Julie Cooper MP  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Ms. Cooper,

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 195664:

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 20 November 2018 to Question 190480 on Pupil Exclusions, what steps Ofsted would undertake in the event that during a (a) section 5 school inspection or (b) joint Ofsted/Care Quality Commission inspection it found evidence of unlawful practice in relation to school exclusions; and who such evidence would be reported to.

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

During a section 5 school inspection if an inspector discovered evidence of unlawful exclusions this would be taken into account when making inspection judgements. Any issues would be raised with the governors or trustees of the school, who are always invited to the final feedback session where the inspection findings would be discussed.

Our concerns would also be raised as appropriate by the relevant regional director or Senior Her Majesty’s Inspector during their regular meetings with local authorities or multi-academy trust leaders.

Where a school is judged to be inadequate, the Department for Education would be informed and a copy of the report detailing Ofsted’s specific concerns would be made available to them.
While the headline rates of exclusion are considered during a local area SEND inspection, it is outside of the remit of these inspections to look at exclusions from individual schools and/or academies in detail. However, if an inspector had concerns about unlawful exclusions, they would refer this information to the relevant Ofsted regional director.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Spielman

Amanda Spielman
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector