



Baroness Barran

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The Baroness Drake CBE
Chair of the House of Lords Constitution Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Jeannie,

I am pleased to be writing to follow up on my letter of 17 June, which I hope the Committee found helpful in responding to the concerns raised in its report on the Schools Bill. I trust you will also have seen my letter to Noble Lords, on 30 June, which confirmed the Government's position in relation to Clauses 1-18. I am enclosing a copy of that letter here.

The Government has now tabled amendments for Report Stage. As my letter to Noble Lords confirmed, the Government will support the removal of the Clauses relating to academy standards (in Clauses 1-4). The Government is also supporting the removal of Clauses 5-18, which relate to intervention in failing academy trusts. Whilst we are broadly content that this approach remains the right one, given the policy interaction with Clauses 1-4, we accept it is right to withdraw these clauses now so they can be considered by Parliament in the context of the revised approach to the Academy Standards.

In its Report, the Committee suggested that the Government should consider revising its approach to Clause 1 to, "provide greater detail on the operation of the power." Removing the Clauses now will enable the Government to engage the sector in the coming months with the intention of returning amended clauses to Parliament which narrow the scope of the power and provide greater clarity on how the power to set regulations will be used.

The Government has committed to undertake the first phase of the regulatory review to develop revised clauses for Academy Standards. Our intention is to table these amendments during the first amending stage in the House of Commons. The House of Lords will then be able to consider all revised clauses during Lords Consideration of Commons Amendment and a whole day will be allowed to consider the

amendments brought forward on clauses 1 - 18 in a 'Committee of the Whole House' before the House returns to 'normal' ping-pong to consider amendments to the rest of the Bill.

I hope this letter confirms that we have listened carefully to the concerns raised by the Committee and seek to act upon the recommendations made by the House. I intend to place a copy of this letter in the House library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diana Barran".

BARONESS BARRAN
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE