



**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith  
Minister for Skills**

Department for Education Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfes](http://www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfes)

The Lord Storey CBE

By email

18 February 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing to you as per my commitment during the debate on School Accountability and Intervention on 6 February. I'd like to thank you for your questions, and I write to you to provide more information on Ofsted's proposed assessment of safeguarding.

As mentioned during the debate, the tragic death of Ruth Perry and Ofsted's Big listen findings have meant Ofsted has thought carefully about its approach to safeguarding and has already made several changes, including a return visit within three months for schools with safeguarding judged as ineffective, as well as a much clearer definition of the requirements around safeguarding.

Under Ofsted's new proposals safeguarding will remain a key area that is assessed during inspection and will remain a standalone judgement. Unlike the other evaluation areas Ofsted are proposing that safeguarding will be graded as either met or not met – a school is either doing all they can to keep children safe or they are not. The outcome of which will be reported on a school's report card.

Thank you again for taking the time to engage on these matters. I hope these further details have been useful and I will place a copy in the House libraries.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith  
Minister for Skills**