



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

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Baroness Barran
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

06 March 2025

Dear Baroness Barran,

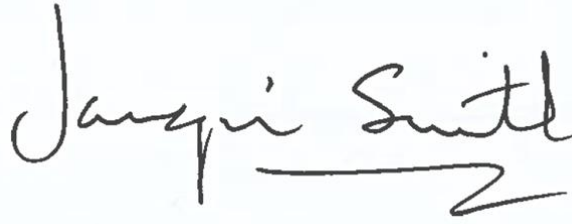
I am writing to follow up the question you raised during the recent Lords Oral Question on 4th March regarding the independent panel which was appointed to advise on age ratings in the revised Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) statutory guidance and whether a report will be published.

As you are aware, the expert panel you referred to was appointed by the previous Secretary of State to provide independent advice to her on setting age limits on the teaching of certain topics within RSHE. The panel did not produce a report or formal findings, but their advice informed the age limits that were in the draft guidance that was consulted on by the previous Government in May 2024, and details of the panel's role and their advice was set out in the accompanying consultation document. The Department, therefore, has no plans to publish anything further.

The Secretary of State has been clear that children's wellbeing must be at the heart of this guidance for schools, which is why the department is looking carefully at responses to the public consultation conducted last year, considering the relevant evidence and discussing with stakeholders before setting out next steps.

Thank you again for taking the time to engage on this important topic. I will deposit a copy of this letter in the House Library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Jacqui Smith" in a cursive style, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith
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