



**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)

26 March 2025

Dear Elizabeth,

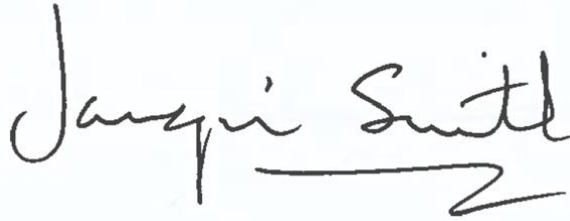
I am writing to follow up the question you raised during the OPQ on the 20 March 2025 regarding whether my department collects data on children with special educational needs and disabilities who are withdrawn from mainstream education to be home educated.

The Department does not hold information on the number of children with special educational needs and disabilities who are withdrawn from mainstream education to be home educated. However, the Department does collect data from local authorities on the number of children in elective home education and the reasons why these children are in home education: ['Elective home education at census date' from 'Elective home education', Permanent data table - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#). The latest data shows that “School dissatisfaction SEND” was the primary reason for elective home education in 3% of cases.

This information is based on voluntary registers that local authorities hold on home educated children in their areas. Given that there is currently no requirement for parents to inform local authorities that they are home educating, this information is likely to be incomplete. That is why, through the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill, we are introducing compulsory Children Not in School registers in every local authority in England and Wales, as well as accompanying duties on parents and certain out-of-school education providers to provide information for these registers. This will support local authorities to build a more accurate picture of all children not in school in their areas and increase understanding at a national level of the reasons for home education.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jacqui Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

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