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4 April 2025

Mr Angus MacDonald OBE MP **Sir Martyn Oliver**

His Majesty’s Chief Inspector

Member of Parliament for Inverness, Skye and West Ross-shire

House of Commons

London

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Sent by email to: angus.macdonald.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Mr MacDonald

# PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 41715

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will take steps to help ensure that Ofsted assessments include a requirement for schools to provide SEND training for all teachers.

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me for response as His Majesty’s Chief Inspector for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills.

Ofsted inspects settings providing education and skills for children and learners in England and we are committed to making sure all schools, early years settings and further education and skills providers are inclusive environments. In February 2025, we launched a consultation on a renewed education inspection framework and new look report cards. As part of this, we are consulting on the development of new toolkits which outline the areas that inspectors will evaluate. Our proposed toolkits will promote how well leaders provide their staff with high quality professional development and this includes developing teachers and support staff to help them better support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) so that they can adapt their teaching to meet these pupils’ needs.

Ofsted also inspects initial teacher education providers and our proposed toolkits will ensure that providers prioritise helping trainee teachers to have the skills and knowledge in teaching pupils with SEND.



In addition, we are proposing to introduce a separate evaluation area for ‘inclusion’. This is because we want a greater focus on how well education providers identify and mitigate barriers to education that children and learners face, particularly those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged and those with SEND. We are clear that inclusion is not a bolt on to good practice – it has to be woven throughout everything that a provider does. Inclusion is therefore threaded through each evaluation area of our proposed toolkits.

Our consultation document and proposed toolkits are available online at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspectseducation.](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education)

We are focused on developing training for inspectors and have recently launched the Ofsted Academy to promote this work. We will make sure that all school inspectors have expertise in how to evaluate provision for pupils with SEND, whether that be in mainstream or special schools. We have also committed to recruiting more inspectors with relevant experience in the SEND and alternative provision sector to enhance our specialist workforce.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



# Sir Martyn Oliver

His Majesty’s Chief Inspector

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