



**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

The Baroness Bull CBE

By email

10 November 2025

Dear Deborah,

I am writing to you to follow up on the question you raised during the Oral Question on 23 October 2025 on Autistic Children, about data collected by the Department for Education on unlawful exclusions and its future plans.

The Department routinely collects data on pupil exclusion from schools through the termly School Census which specifies details on the reason for the exclusion and any associated pupil characteristics. The School Exclusion Reviews (APEX) data collection records the number and outcomes of formal exclusion reviews lodged by parents and determined by independent review panels (IRP). However, this does not capture informal exclusions, off rolling, or other unofficial practices.

We are taking steps to strengthen oversight and accountability around school exclusion and pupil movement. This includes monitoring of exclusion data, particularly for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, closer scrutiny of IRP decisions, alongside approaches through Ofsted inspections. We are also exploring options for an annual review of Safeguarding, Attendance and Pupil Movement which will include off-rolling.

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**