



The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith

Minister for Skills

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House of Lords
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24th February 2026

Dear Lord Young,

Thank you for your support for the Government's temporary accommodation notification amendment to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, which was made at Lords Report Stage.

During the debate on Monday 19th January, I agreed to write to you with further information regarding a timetable for the implementation of this provision.

Subject to parliamentary procedure, we are aiming for implementation of the temporary accommodation notification in September 2026, to align with the start of the new academic year. Officials across my department, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Health and Social Care are working closely together to develop guidance to relevant bodies, to support effective implementation of this important measure.

As I set out during the debate, the Government will set out more information on delivery through the statutory homelessness guidance, and we are currently working through how best to support areas to share the information. There will also be guidance to relevant educational and health services so that they can best support children placed in temporary accommodation.

You also asked about IT systems for information sharing and cross-border notifications, which I answered during the debate and will expand on now.

As you will be aware, through this Bill we are also introducing the consistent identifier (or 'single unique identifier'), which is a consistent number or code for each individual that is included across multiple sets of data to link information together more quickly and accurately. This could possibly in future contribute to more accurate and efficient information sharing for when local housing officers make the temporary accommodation notifications.

As the Bill continues its passage through Parliament, we will continue to consider how best to operationalise the notifications.

Lastly, as I set out in the debate, the duty to share information will only apply to local housing authorities in England since housing is devolved to Wales and Scotland, and notifications will be made to relevant education and health bodies in England because these areas are also devolved in Wales and Scotland. Were a notification made to bodies in Wales and Scotland, the guidance that will apply to English bodies about what to do on receiving the information would not be applicable.

However, my officials have discussed the new duty with counterparts in Devolved Governments, and should the Welsh or Scottish Governments ever wish for their relevant education and/or health bodies to receive notifications, the regulation making power in the provision allows relevant bodies in Wales and Scotland to be added to the scope of the provision in the future and they would be subject to applicable guidance or procedures in those jurisdictions. Until such time as the Devolved Governments wish to introduce such changes, we continue to encourage information sharing and partnership working across boundaries in order to allow for joined-up support.

I would like to thank you again for your support on this measure, I hope this letter has adequately answered your questions. I will provide a copy to the House library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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