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Connétable Richard Vibert
Minister for Children and Families

BY EMAIL

22nd July 2026

Dear Minister,

Schooling and Educational Outcomes for Children in Foster Care

The Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel (the "Panel") has received representations regarding the process by which educational placements are determined for children in foster care. In particular, concerns have been raised about the difficulties foster carers face in securing school transfers and the appropriateness of the schools to which children are subsequently directed. Central to these concerns is the extent to which the wishes of foster carers, and the voice of the child, are sought and taken into account when educational placement decisions are made.

Given the importance of ensuring that educational decisions are made in the best interests of each individual child, the Panel seeks to understand how educational placement decisions, and decisions to change a placement, are made for looked-after children, including the range of schools considered. The Panel would accordingly be grateful if the Minister could provide details of:

- the individual or body responsible for determining the educational placement of a looked-after child, and the factors taken into account when reaching that decision;
- the role of the Personal Education Plan (PEP) in these decisions, and specifically whether the views and wishes of the child regarding their school placement, and those of their foster carer, are recorded within the PEP;
- where a decision is taken to change a child's school placement, whether that decision is made through the PEP process, and what opportunity foster carers and the child have to participate in the relevant PEP meeting;
- how the views of foster carers and the child are weighed in the final decision, and whether reasons are provided - including within the PEP - where a decision departs from those views;
- whether the decision-making and review processes described above are set out in any written policy, procedure or guidance, and whether records of such decisions are maintained;
- the mechanisms available to foster carers, parents with parental responsibility, and children to challenge or seek a review of decisions regarding school transfers or educational placement;
- whether the Minister has sought advice regarding these arrangements from key stakeholders such as the Children's Commissioner.

The Panel would also welcome clarification as to whether the range of schools considered includes fee-paying independent schools, and whether there is any government policy, guidance

or established practice that prevents or restricts children in care from attending such schools. If such a policy, guidance or practice exists, the Panel would be grateful for details of:

- the legal basis for the policy or restriction;
- the rationale underpinning it;
- how it is applied in practice when decisions are made regarding the education of looked-after children.

Finally, to assist the Panel in understanding the scale and operation of these arrangements, the Panel would welcome details of how many looked-after children have attended fee-paying schools in the last five years, and how many requests for such placements have been approved or declined during that period.

The Panel looks forward to your formal response and would request this is received by **29th July 2026**. Please direct any response or queries to the Panel through our Committee and Panel Officer, Kaya Camara by email at K.Camara2@gov.je and Research and Project Officer, Rosalyn Sharp by email at r.sharp@gov.je.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V Li', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Deputy Victoria Li
Chair
Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel