



Department for Education

Josh MacAlister OBE MP
Minister for Children and Families

Professor Alison Young
Commissioner for Public Law and the Law in Wales
By email: Alison.Young@lawcommission.gov.uk

3 September 2026

The Government's holding response to the Law Commission's 'Disabled Children's Social Care' report

Dear

I am writing regarding the government's response to the Law Commission's Disabled Children's Social Care final report.

As I set out in the Department's interim response to the report in March 2026, I would like to reiterate my thanks to the Law Commission for the thorough work on this important issue.

Government has, and continues to, carefully review the responses to the *Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reform: Putting Children and Young People First* consultation, ahead of tabling legislation on this issue. Given the significant links between the Law Commission's recommendations in this area and the issues being considered through the recent SEND reform consultation and wider reform programme, aligning our response with this work will enable us to explain more clearly how the government's broader reforms address those recommendations.

I have therefore concluded that it would be preferable to delay, for a short period, the government's response to the Law Commission's report to provide us with the best opportunity to align with our response to the *SEND* Reform consultation and provide clarity on the way forward for children and families. This will support a more coherent and joined-up approach, allowing the government to provide a fuller response to the recommendations.

I recognise that this means we will not meet the response date set out in protocol. However, I believe this approach will provide greater clarity and consistency by allowing Government to consider related impacts on the SEND and Children's Social Care systems as a whole before responding.

I am nonetheless committed to publishing the government's response to the law commission within this calendar year.

As set out in the interim response, government remains committed to creating a simpler, more consistent and effective framework for disabled children's social care and will set out its response once consideration of the related reforms has concluded.

I have copied this letter to the Lord Chancellor.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh MacAlister', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Josh MacAlister OBE MP
Minister for Children and Families