

----- Original Message -----

From: [Piercy, Sue](#)

To:

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 8:57 AM

Subject: EHE Complaint and Consultation

Further to your e mail of 21st June I have consulted with Frances Molloy and am now in a position to respond to you in a more detailed manner.

The complaints meeting you refer to was held on 28 March, which as you know was very close to the Easter holidays and that informed the information Frances Molloy gave to the complaints panel regarding an undertaking to review our procedures after Easter ie during the summer term. This was with a view to the new protocol/procedures being implemented from September. In giving that undertaking, Frances was very clear that this would be happening throughout the period of the summer term, and would include not only the review of paperwork but also the review of staffing, job descriptions etc which would be required in terms of our proposed new arrangements for service delivery, which would need to be clear in order for it to be properly reflected in any new paperwork.

With regards to your comments around consultation there appears to have been some misunderstanding. It has never been our intention to hold a series of meetings to determine the new protocols and procedures. Once prepared the new document reflecting our new arrangements in draft will be posted onto the website, and we will write to all our registered home educators advising them that the documents are available for comment and seeking views. We will also be posting a message to the effect that other members of the community who are not currently home educating are also welcome to offer comments or opinions.

In terms of your comments around timescales, following a meeting on 27th May – Frances did speak with Jane Jackson and agree that HEFG would be contacted at the time when we were going to open the consultation. This would be to make HEFG specifically aware of the consultation, in addition to any communications that might go out to them individually as home educators. We would have hoped to begin consultation sooner than has proved to be the case, but that has partly been because we have been seeking further legal advice to ensure that any changes we were making to the protocol would reflect the current legal position.

In terms of the penultimate paragraph, I am not sure what "ultra vires" practices you refer to. We have made amendments to the original document where it was specifically inaccurate, and having commenced the review of the protocol have withdrawn all our documentation from the website and announced that the EHE information is under review. We have also amended our letters which quite clearly stipulate that visits are optional.

I hope this information is useful and we will of course contact you regarding the opportunity to give your views when the new draft documents are posted on the website.

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