



Nick Gibb MP
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Graham Stuart MP
Chair of Education Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear Graham

At our meeting in September you drew to my attention to concerns raised by home educators in Lancashire who claim that they are being told by the local authority that they have to have Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks to home educate their children. Such checks are, of course, not required.

DfE officials have contacted officers at the local authority and have been assured that there is no question that they would ever CRB check home educating parents as there are no legal powers to do so. The misunderstanding may have arisen because the local authority advises all parents using home tutors to ensure their tutors are CRB checked. We have no reason to doubt this explanation but would be happy to look into any specific complaints that suggest that the local authorities or their staff are requiring inappropriate CRB checks to be conducted.

You also indicated at the meeting that some home educators believed that their local authorities had not appreciated that the provisions on registration and monitoring contained in the Children, Schools and Families Bill, brought forward by the previous government, had been dropped. We are surprised by this as local authorities followed the passage of the Bill with great interest and local authority officials charged with assisting home educators and who contact us through local authority networks are well aware that the registration and monitoring provisions did not become law. If any home educating parents know of individual local authorities who believe that the legislation is now in force, please let me know and DfE will take steps to bring them up to date.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Nick

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