



Lord Nash

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Countess of Mar
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Countess of Mar,

Children and Families Bill – Young people with ME

Thank you for your contribution to the scrutiny of the Children and Families Bill during Grand Committee.

During the debate on advocacy for vulnerable children and young people, I promised to write to you about the involvement of children, young people and their parents in decision-making meetings where the child or young person has ME. Baroness Northover and I also promised to write to other noble Lords who asked questions on other clauses. We are trying to organise our answers by providing noble Lords with a single document that brings them all together. This addresses your points on page 28 and a copy is enclosed. I do hope that you find this helpful in answering the point you raised.

Yours sincerely,
Lord Nash
LORD NASH

On the issue of children with ME raised by The Countess of Mar, we can confirm that they should be consulted in the same way as other children. Children with ME or other medical conditions have the same rights to have their wishes and feelings listened to and taken into account. This includes the provision of advocacy where the child or parent requests it and we would expect those working with the young person to ensure they are aware of their entitlement. If a child feels their wishes and feelings are being ignored and that their right to an advocate on request is not being provided, they or their parents and carers, where appropriate, can use the local complaints procedure.