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10th January 2017

Dear Mr Harford,

Thank you for your letter responding to our concerns and evidence that far too many schools do not currently have the necessary policies and procedures in place to support children with long-term medical conditions.

We agree with you that it is the Department for Education's responsibility to make sure that schools are aware of the statutory duty to support children with medical conditions. To that end, we are in communications with Nick Ceadel at the DfE regarding this point.

It is important not only that schools are better aware of their duty, but that schools actually fulfil their legal responsibilities to provide support to children to keep them safe and fully included. I note from your letter that there are no plans to review the Common Inspection Framework this year. We would like to discuss this further with you and a representative from the school's policy team, to understand how the inspection process can better ensure schools have these policies and procedures in place to care for children with medical conditions.

For example, we understand your concerns about the need to not identify individual students in inspection reports, so it would be helpful to discuss a more appropriate approach, and whether inspectors could instead check and record evidence that schools have statutory documents and policies in place for supporting children with medical conditions. Specifically, inspectors should check for the following: medical conditions policy, template individual healthcare plan and evidence of staff training.

In our ongoing discussions with the DfE we are exploring the possibility of Ofsted undertaking a Thematic Review of medical condition policies in schools and relevant support for children with medical conditions. We would also be keen to discuss this with you.

As you know, the Health Conditions in School Alliance is supporting a petition by Ms Louise Fyfe-Taylor calling on Ofsted to instruct inspectors to assess whether schools have adequate medical conditions policies. We've noted the near 7000 signatures it has already received indicates this is an issue affecting a significant number of people. To understand the problem better, in the next few weeks we'll be asking our supporters for their own experiences of and views on this issue. I'll be happy to share the outcome of this exercise at our meeting.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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Thank you for offering the Alliance the option of meeting with you. We welcome the opportunity to work with Ofsted to ensure that schools are keeping the more than 1 million children with medical conditions safe and supported in school, in line with their legal responsibilities. To arrange a suitable date to discuss these issues further please contact Tara Finn, 0203 757 7804 Tara.Finn@diabetes.org.uk. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Askew', written over a long horizontal line that extends across the page.

Chris Askew

Chief Executive