

New exclusions guidance expected following Timpson Review

The long-awaited review on exclusions undertaken by Edward Timpson has been published.

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The long-awaited review on exclusions undertaken by Edward Timpson has been published. The report was widely expected to focus on a number of key issues such as off-rolling and retaining accountability for those excluded, and the government has been quick to confirm that it will implement the 30 recommendations set out within the report.

Timpson has found too much variation in the use of exclusions and although he found examples of schools using exclusions appropriately and effectively, 'there is clear room for improvement'. His findings have helped formulate the various recommendations which will impact schools, parents, and local authorities amongst others. Ofsted has already referred to off-rolling in their new draft inspection framework and the report is clear that schools found to have off-rolled should be graded inadequate. Long-overdue guidance on managed moves will also be issued.

Given the scale of the review it is almost certain that updated statutory guidance will be issued in the coming months. Such guidance is likely to contain further information on what headteachers must consider before taking the decision to exclude to ensure that decision is reasonable and the introduction of accountability mechanisms – both in terms of performance and cost.

For further information as to what this means in practice and to be sure that you are kept informed with the latest developments, join us at our upcoming Education Law Conference. You can view the agenda, that includes a keynote speech on the controversial practice of 'off-rolling', by clicking here. Given the timeliness of the review, in relation to our conference series, we've frozen our delegate rate of £109 (+VAT), to help you gather all the latest information and guidance you need to keep your school on track.

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