

Dear

The Department for Education will soon start to collect highly sensitive information from school children, including pregnancy, young offender, and health data in the Alternative Provision Census.

The government should pause it before January 18th, unless safeguards are put in place to protect:

- children's confidentiality and safeguarding
- security of the data
- and the stigmatising effects and harm it could have on children for life

Representative from over 20 leading charities and child rights advocates, including ALLFIE, Mencap, the NEU (NUT), the Teenage Pregnancy Knowledge Exchange, and Trailblazers young offender mentoring, have written to Justine Greening with these concerns. Children's identifying records are given away to companies for commercial re-use from the National Pupil Database, without our consent. That's not right. If the Department of Education cannot stop the distribution of identifying data for re-use purposes, and commit to children's confidentiality; we believe the government should not collect the data at all.

Key concerns about the National Pupil Database:

- The information are stored forever, on a named basis in this growing database of 23M people, and are never deleted.
- Identifying, pupil-level data are given out to third-parties from the National Pupil Database, including sensitive data.
- Data are handed out for research including name and address, date of birth, special educational needs, and attainment results across the educational lifetime age 2-19.
- Researchers get sent highly sensitive data, including journalists, think tanks, charities and commercial companies.
- National Pupil data are also used today across government in Troubled Families — without transparency in a programme that some academics see “any family could be made to fit” — and are given out to the National Citizen Service, without pupils'/parents' knowledge, consent, self-verification for accuracy, or opportunity for correction.

Ofsted's Report on Local area SEND inspections and a recent report by think Tank IPPR Making the Difference shows the importance of understanding these information. But that should not be at the expense of the lifetime privacy of the children affected.

January 18, 2018 is very soon. The Department needs to act with urgency and pause this collection.

This collection should not go ahead until assurances have been made how and when

- **the data will be safe**
- **children's confidentiality will be respected**
- **children and parents will be told about the collection, and asked for consent before the data are collected**

Thank you for your time and I hope you will ask questions, and support the changes that need made.

Sincerely,

