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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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Private Secretary  
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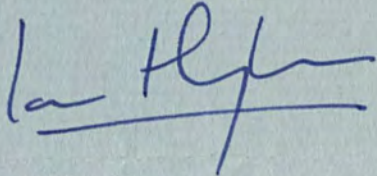
Dear Charles,

My Secretary of State has seen your letter to <sup>Rob Smith</sup> me of 4 December recording representations about the European School in Luxembourg which were made to the Prime Minister when she was in the Grand Duchy recently.

Responsibility for the fabric of each of the European Schools rests with the host Government; our understanding is that the accommodation at the school in Luxembourg is quite good, but the site for the primary section (all language classes) is split and the Luxembourg Government is presently undertaking some improvements, which are due to be completed by the end of next year, to the buildings on both sites. Responsibility for the provision of equipment within the school - including the provision of books - is that of the Board of Governors of the European Schools (on which the United Kingdom is, of course, represented), making use of Community funds; priorities are for the head teacher to determine. We have not previously been made aware of particular difficulties at this school, although it is probably the case, as with most schools, that parents, teachers and pupils would like more, both in terms of quality and quantity, than funding allows.

You referred in your letter to a DES inspection of the school. Every language section of each school is visited by national inspectors (in our case by two HMI, one primary and one secondary, who have responsibilities for the European Schools among their other duties) but there is nothing which is equivalent to the reports which HMI write following a formal inspection of a school and which are subsequently published so that parents and other interested people can learn their assessments of the school's strengths and weaknesses; this is a serious gap in the European School system which we have for some time been trying to persuade our partners to remedy.

Perhaps those who made representations to the Prime Minister could be advised to put their points to the head teacher, or to make use of the forum of the Parents' Association. If there are any general points, they could, of course, be put to the Department although in that case I suggest that it should be made clear that the Department's immediate responsibilities are limited as explained above.

Yours sincerely,  


I M HUGHES  
Private Secretary

EDUCATION PT3  
FUTURE POLICY

