



b.c. Professor Griffiths ✓  
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*Dear Mich,*

EDUCATION REFORM BILL: PUBLICITY

This is just to confirm the comments, which I passed to you on the telephone last night, on the booklet which your Secretary of State circulated on 12 November. The comments are set out in the attached note.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Richard Wilson*

R T J WILSON



## EDUCATION REFORM: THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR SCHOOLS

The following comments, collated by the Cabinet Office, refer to the text circulated by the Secretary of State on 12 November.

- Page 1 (What will the National Curriculum consist of?)  
Delete "which all children must study during their compulsory school years from 5 to 16."
- Page 3 (What will be the responsibilities of schools and teachers?)  
Delete the last two sentences, "For example, ... Initiative".
- Page 5 (How will the arrangements be introduced?)  
Delete "For each subject" in the first line and "in each subject" in the last line.
- Page 5 (What happens if my child fails the tests?)  
Delete "for each subject" in the second sentence.  
It was agreed in E(EP) on 22 July that it should be made clear that the natural result of a child failing to meet targets, particularly in primary schools, should be remedial teaching.
- Page 6 (What information will be available?)  
Amend the second sentence to read: "The proposal is that parents will be told what their child ...".
- Page 8 (When will these changes take place?)  
Amend the third sentence to read: "... will be introduced ...".



Page 13 (What sort of expenditure will become the school's responsibility?)

Amend the first sentence to read: "... and certain services provided centrally ..."

Page 14 (What if a governing body gets into difficulties with its budget?)

The draft of the Bill before Legislation Committee does not include the right of appeal to the Secretary of State, mentioned here, and will need to be amended to include it.

Page 19 (Why create grant-maintained schools?)

Delete "and will not charge fees" in the last sentence, so that it ends "... free education."

Page 20 (How will the Secretary of State decide application?)

The tone of this answer could be made more encouraging: for instance, by inserting at the beginning, "The Government proposes that there should be as few obstacles as possible in the way of opting out."

Page 25 (Can a school return to LEA management?)

The point was made in E(EP) on 21 July that it should not be assumed that schools in such circumstances would wish to revert to LEA status: there were other options, such as direct grant status, which would be open to them.