



Permanent Secretary

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22nd December 2022

Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

Dear Meg,

Correction to Q62, HC730 on supporting vulnerable adolescents, 21 November 2022

Following my attendance at the Committee to discuss support for vulnerable adolescents on 21 November, I wanted to write to clarify something I said, to make sure it was absolutely accurate.

The current transcript says:

However, for example, there is only about a 15% overlap between those involved in serious violence and those who have been excluded from school, which is lower than, I think, lots of us expected. For quite a lot of those children, the exclusion was because of the serious violence, not the other way round. They were excluded from school because they committed a serious violence offence, which is –

It would have been more strictly accurate and evidenced to have said:

However, for example, only about 15% of those cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had ever been permanently excluded which is lower than, I think, lots of us expected. For quite a lot of those children, the exclusion was after the serious violence, not the other way round.

This reflects that the data we have can tell us about the order of events – that in these cases, the exclusion came after the serious violence, rather than the other way round – but cannot definitively determine that the serious violence always caused the exclusion (though it is a reasonable supposition that it may well have done so in at least some cases). I hope this clarification is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

SUSAN ACLAND-HOOD
PERMANENT SECRETARY