

Launch Date 12 July 2010
Respond by 4 October 2010

Independent Review of the Office of the Children's Commissioner - Call for Evidence

The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, has invited John Dunford to conduct an independent review of the office, role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for England. The review is looking particularly at the powers, remit and functions of the Children's Commissioner, how this role relates to other functions supported by Government and value for money. The review is being supported by a secretariat of Department for Education officials. The review was announced in Parliament on 12 July 2010.

Independent Review of the Office of the Children's Commissioner - Call for Evidence

- To** People working with children and young people, and parents/carers
- Issued** 12 July 2010
- Enquiries To** If your enquiry is related to the call for evidence you can contact the review secretariat by email: review.occ@education.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0207 340 7454.

Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the Department for Education e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Consultation Unit by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0870 000 2288.

1 A Message from John Dunford

1.1

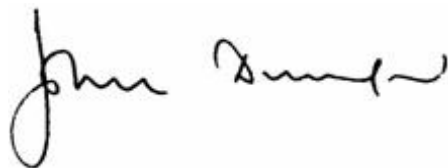


The Government has asked me to carry out an independent review of the office, role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for England. I am seeking a wide cross-section of views and evidence to inform the review and very much hope that you will contribute.

- 1.2 The role of Children's Commissioner for England was created by the Children Act 2004 with a remit to promote awareness of the views and interests of children in England.
- 1.3 The Secretary of State's letter to me today, 12 July 2010, asks me to consider three aspects of the Children's Commissioner's activities in particular:

1. The powers, remit and functions of the Children's Commissioner.
 2. The relationship with other related functions supported by Government.
 3. Value for Money.
- 1.4 The full text of that letter is available [here](#) and includes some more specific issues that I have been asked to cover in the review. I am approaching all of them with an open mind.
 - 1.5 The Secretary of State has asked me to take account of the views of a wide range of partners on how government can best protect children's interests - including the voluntary and private sector, commissioners and providers of children's services, the current and previous Children's Commissioners and from children and young people themselves. I shall therefore be seeking views and evidence from a variety of sources and in various ways.
 - 1.6 Through this letter I am inviting you to let me have your views by completing the response form [here](#). This includes some specific questions and allows you to add other points that you feel are important to the review. I should particularly like to receive examples of your own experience of the Children's Commissioner, including an explanation of any action that was taken, what impact it had and any suggestions you have for how things might have been handled differently or better.
 - 1.7 The views of children and young people will be particularly important to the review and I therefore hope to meet with some of them, for example through the Department for Education Children and Youth Board. I shall also be asking organisations that work with children and young people if we can use their networks or if they can suggest other ways of obtaining feedback from children and young people so that we get a good cross-section of views.
 - 1.8 Your evidence will help me enormously in thinking about these issues and reaching informed conclusions.
 - 1.9 I am due to give the Secretary of State an update in mid-October and my final report to him is due to be completed by the end of November 2010. I should therefore welcome your response as soon as possible, but no later than **4 October 2010**.
 - 1.10 Please feel free to draw this call for evidence to the attention of others you think may wish to submit evidence to the review.

With thanks



John Dunford

2 How To Respond

- 2.1 Consultation responses can be completed online at www.education.gov.uk/consultations by emailing evidence.occ@education.gsi.gov.uk or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

Consultation Unit, Department for Education, Area GB, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2GJ.

The review is very keen to hear the views of children and young people and an online survey designed for children and young people can be found [here](#). There is also a questionnaire which can be returned by post or email and another which can be used for those who would like to interview their peers. Both can be downloaded [here](#). If there are children and young people who would like to share their views or gather the views of their peers in other ways then please email: review.occ@education.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0207 340 7454 and we will be happy to help you.

3 Additional Copies

- 3.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded [here](#).

4 Plans for making results public

- 4.1 The results of the consultation will be published on the Department for Education e-consultation website before the end of December 2010 and will be reflected in recommendations to Government following the review which is due to be completed by the end of November 2010.