

**Children and Lifelong Learning Directorate**  
**Bill Dewar, Assistant Director**  
**School Improvement Division**  
**Quality Learning Services**  
Kingston Centre, Fairway, Stafford, ST16 3TW  
Telephone Direct: 01785 85 4076  
Facsimile: 01785 256193  
Email: [lynda.mitchell@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lynda.mitchell@staffordshire.gov.uk)  
Please ask for: Lynda Mitchell

My ref: SID/LM/PAH

Your ref:

Date 29 January 2009

Dear Mr. Hupfield

I am sorry that you feel unsupported by our home education team. The law with regard to home education is less than clear in parts, since although it does not require parents to cooperate, it does require the LA to ensure that a satisfactory education is provided. It is difficult to achieve this if an LA representative does not, at some stage, meet with the parents. Hopefully, the home education review will help with this.

However, we do have instances when parents prefer to send correspondence to show how their child is making progress. This is acceptable and I know that you have recently sent some information to Mr. Hindmarsh which he has accepted as evidence of a satisfactory education.

The aim of the Elective Education at home team is to be supportive of parents, and I know that the vast majority of parents are very satisfied with the service that they receive. I know this because they tell us so. Nowhere in the documentation does it state that a visit to the home is mandatory. If it was mandatory, it would be explicit within the literature.

I am sorry if you felt that Mr. Hindmarsh was implying that you were abusing Adrian. If he had any evidence to support such a supposition, it is his duty, as it is the duty of any other LA officer, to act upon such evidence and contact Social Care. Mr. Hindmarsh has not done so, and therefore I conclude that he has no thought that this might be the case.

The evidence that Mr. Hindmarsh provided to the court was that requested by a solicitor, and at that time Mr. Hindmarsh had received little evidence that Adrian was receiving a suitable education.

Mr. Hindmarsh has a wealth of experience of working with families of home educated children and young people, and his service is regarded as a model of effective practice by the DCSF and by other local authorities. I am sorry that the service has not suited you to date, and am happy to meet with you to discuss what we can do to help to support you in the future. If you feel that you would like a meeting, please contact me on the above number to arrange a mutually convenient time and place.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynda Mitchell', written in a cursive style.

Dr Lynda Mitchell  
Senior School Improvement Officer (Inclusion)