

**Comments on the DrES Document:  
 "ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION GUIDELINES  
 FOR LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES"  
 from "Home Service"**

<i>Section</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Part 3.9	When a child is deregistered from school parents in most cases do not have a clear idea on how they will home educate. They must not be asked to 'Submit proposals' at this point in time.
Part 3.12	When a child is deregistered the LEA will look for information to see if they do not believe an efficient and suitable education is being provided. Apart from issues raised by social services there can be no information available on the quality of education as none is likely to have taken place. This can only be done after some time has been given to the parent to educate the child. Asking for a philosophy or too much info at this time will cause the parents to be unsettled. No information should be asked for.
Part 4.6	The LEA may invite parents to discuss the range of educational methods available. I believe this should not be done by officers in the LEA. The home education organisations should be introduced as the amount of experience available is an order of magnitude greater. It is wasteful of LEA resources to provide 'expertise' on a very wide range of options that are available.
Part 4.6	Asking the child to be present at a meeting on educational methods will most of the time be inappropriate. In a lot of cases the child has had a very negative experience of education and cannot <u>therefore contribute constructively.</u>
Part 5.1	Suggest that the LEA pay public exams! Paying for the education by the parent is reasonable but some help with exams would be useful. There is currently an unfair situation where the exam centre (i.e. a school) gets the statistical credit for the Home educated child's exam results. It would be fairer if the LEA provided separate centres for home educated children.
Part 5.2	Suggest that the LEA makes it easy to enter external candidates into public exams. It takes hours of work to track down an exam centre and admin as well as exam fees need to be paid. Perhaps the LEAs can facilitate this?
Part 5.7	Suggest that work experience info is made more widely available.
Part 5.12	A home educated child out and about who is contacted during a truancy sweep, should not be followed up on if they can prove they are home educated e.g. By showing a card issued by one of the home educating organisations. An LEA database will always be out of date.
Appendix B	You include your web site <a href="http://www.dfes.gov.uk">www.dfes.gov.uk</a> but home education references can only be found doing a search. You should be more up front with this as a real alternative or else you are guilty of a bias to education via schools.

