



Sarah Teather MP

Minister of State for Children and Families

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Roshni Shah

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Dear Roshni

Thank you for your email of 30 November kindly inviting me to attend your conference. Unfortunately, due to diary pressures I am unable to accept. I wish you all the best for what I am sure will be a successful event.

As you are aware, I will be publishing a Green Paper on special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities in February 2011. The Green Paper will set out our approach to make the system feel less adversarial to parents so they don't feel it is a struggle to access the right support for their children, and improve educational outcomes and life chances for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, including those with communication and interaction difficulties like dyslexia, dyspraxia and autism.

To inform the forthcoming Green Paper we issued a call for views to everyone with an interest in SEN and disabilities in England. The call for views is part of ongoing consultation to inform the development of the Green Paper including discussions with our partners – including parents, professionals from health, education, social care and other areas, representative bodies and those from the voluntary sector. The “call for views” received over 1800 responses, 40% of which were from parents.

We are currently preparing our plans for consultation once the Green Paper is published, and I certainly hope you will participate at this time. Details on how you can be involved will be available on the Department's website (www.education.gov.uk) shortly.

Best wishes

Sarah Teather MP
Minister of State for Children and Families