



The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
20 Great Smith St
Westminster
London
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2 St. James' Court
Friar Gate
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DE1 1BT

14 May 2020

Our Ref: DL.lag

Dear Secretary of State

The evidence given by your Chief Scientific Adviser to the Science and Technology Committee recently has thrown into question the evidence on which decisions to open schools and nurseries to more pupils is based.

As I have previously stated, there is a great deal of unrest within the education and early education and childcare professions about the wider opening of schools and nurseries. Voice members require and certainly deserve, given the level of commitment and dedication they are exhibiting in the current circumstances, that the decision taken to re open schools and nurseries for pupils is based on concrete evidence and does not pose a public health threat to them, their families or pupils.

Voice members need to have trust and confidence in the decision now if they are to be expected to participate further in planning for a wider opening before the end of the academic year. I therefore request detail of the evidence on which the decision has been made, without which Voice will be unable to support the Government's aspiration or advise our members that wider opening of schools and nurseries is not without significant risk to them.

I look forward to your reply as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deborah Lawson'.

Deborah Lawson
General Secretary
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Copies: Sarah Lewis
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