

Appendix 2

From: info@dfes.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:info@dfes.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 04 April 2007 10:15

To: Constable, Robin

Subject: Case Reference 2007/0020516

Dear Mr Constable

Thank you for your email dated 22 March about Admission Forums. Your message has been passed to me for reply.

First of all, it is wrong to see the new amending Regulations as restricting the role of schools on the forum: they expand their role. Prior to the laying of these Regulations, schools had a much more restricted role in the business of the forum. Under the original 2002 Regulations, the only school members required to be on the forum were the limited number of school representatives among the core members. Forums will, of course, still be required to appoint these 'school based' core members (up to 3 members from each of the 3 core school groups as set out in regulation 5(2)).

In this context it is therefore surprising to hear that school members appointed under the new provisions within the 2007 Amending Regulations now express their belief that the forum regulations treat them as 'second class citizens'. All schools must now be given the opportunity to be members, through their head teachers or governors. School members are entitled to attend forum meetings and have their say on any issues which the forum wishes, or is required, to discuss, and school members have a full role in voting on the submission of objections. .

It is true that school members are not core members and will not have a formal role in appointing a chair and vice chair. However, a school member may be elected chairman or vice-chairman. Moreover, given the number of school representatives who may be core members under regulations 5, schools will clearly have a role in deciding who chairs the forum.

In terms of rationale, the amending Regulations were drafted as they are in order to allow schools a greater say in local admission arrangements and the promulgation of best practice.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Earl

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE DIVISION

Mark.EARL@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

0870 000 2288

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