



**Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP**  
Secretary of State

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Amanda Spielman  
HM Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills

Rosie Benneyworth  
Chief Inspector of Primary Medical Services and Integrated care

Sir Thomas Winsor  
HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

Justin Russell  
HM Chief Inspector of Probation

By Email

8 December 2021

*Amanda Rosie Thomas Joshua,*

You will be aware of the case of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes, who was tragically murdered last year in Solihull, and of the statement I made in Parliament this week detailing my response, following the conclusion of the court case.

Together with my fellow ministers from the Home Office, the Department of Health and Social Care and the Ministry of Justice, I am, in accordance with section 20(1)(b) of the Children Act 2004, requesting that the Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills, together with the Care Quality Commission, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary and the Chief Inspector of Probation for England and Wales, carry out a Joint Area Targeted Inspection (JTAI) in Solihull, to look at how all local agencies are working together to protect children and improve their wellbeing.

Joint inspections are well established; however, I am aware that in the last year you have been reviewing the methodology for JTAIs. In this case, I request that you use this new

approach that focuses sharply on the entry point to the child protection system across all agencies. The inspection should include the evaluation of:

- how agencies work effectively individually and together to improve the wellbeing of children, including ensuring that children get the right help and protection at the right time;
- the application of appropriate thresholds, effective information sharing and timely intervention;
- how children and young people are protected through effective multi-agency arrangements at the front door;
- how leaders and managers have good oversight of practice, work effectively together, create the right conditions for effective practice and act where improvements are needed; and,
- how the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA) actively monitors, promotes, coordinates and evaluates the work of the safeguarding partners (the local authority, the clinical commissioning group and the chief officer of police), and relevant partners, including schools, as specified in section 16E of the Children Act 2004 and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018, and whether this leads to improvements in the initial multi-agency response at the front door.

The rapid review undertaken by local agencies, following the death of Arthur in June 2020, has been shared with you. The JTAI should provide a view about whether all agencies have implemented improvements as a result of the learning, by providing a clear picture of how local agencies are working together now to protect children from harm. Where concerns are raised, I will not hesitate to take urgent and robust action.

We have agreed that Her Majesty's Inspectors will commence the off-site field work in the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021, with the on-site work starting in the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022, after schools return from the Christmas break. The letter outlining the findings of this inspection will be written and published by Ofsted, towards the end of February 2022.

You will be aware that I have asked Annie Hudson, chair of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, to work with leaders in Solihull to deliver a single, national, independent review of Arthur's death to identify what we must learn from this terrible case. I recognise that these two reviews will take account of different timeframes; however, there may be early issues identified in the national review, that fall within the scope of the JTAI, and we will want to seek assurance on those through this inspection. I will ensure regular contact between the two processes, if there are any emerging lines of enquiry.

My ministerial colleagues and I want to thank you, and your teams, for the rapid work on this issue so far and your commitment to partnership working, for the benefit of all vulnerable children.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a large loop at the end of the name.

**Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP**  
**Secretary of State for Education**

Cc

RT Hon Priti Patel MP, Secretary of State for the Home Department

RT Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

RT Hon Dominic Raab MP, Secretary of State for Justice