



Regulation of school managers and governors: prohibition direction

Name: Christopher Bowler

Former position: Trustee, Chief Executive Officer, and Accounting Officer of Lilac Sky Schools Trust.

Prescribed grounds on which the direction has been issued:

Under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the ‘appropriate authority’ (in this case the Secretary of State) may give a direction prohibiting a person from taking part in the management of an independent school on prescribed grounds connected with the person’s suitability. The grounds on which a person may be prohibited are prescribed in the Independent Education Provision in England (Prohibition from Participation in Management) Regulations 2014 ¹.

A direction was given in respect of Christopher Bowler on 10 January 2023.

The Secretary of State found that Christopher Bowler had engaged in ‘relevant conduct’, and that because of that conduct, he is unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school (including an academy or Free School). For the purpose of this direction, ‘relevant conduct’ means conduct that is so inappropriate that, in the opinion of the appropriate authority, it makes a person unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school, see regulation 2(5)(c) of the 2014 Regulations.

The barring decision also has the effect of disqualifying the person from being a governor at a maintained school.

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¹ [The Independent Educational Provision in England \(Prohibition on Participation in Management\) Regulations 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1000/contents/part-2/regulation-2(5)(c))