

**Department for Education Board Meeting**  
**2 September 2021, 13:00 – 14.00**  
**Permanent Secretary's Board Room, DfE London and Microsoft Teams**

**Attendees**

Nick Gibb Rt Hon MP  
Richard Pennycook  
Ian Ferguson  
Ruby McGregor-Smith  
Toby Peyton Jones  
Nick Timothy  
Susan Acland-Hood  
Mike Green  
Sophie Langdale

Tony Foot

**Title**

Minister of State for School Standards (Chair)  
Lead Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Permanent Secretary  
Chief Operating Officer  
Deputising for Director General, Social Care, Mobility  
and Disadvantage  
Strategic Finance Director

**Presenters**

Emma Stace  
Jon Gilbert  
Leanna Green  
Katherine Moulds  
Emma Wharram

**Title**

Chief Digital Officer  
Chief Information Security Officer  
Deputy Director of Operational Services  
Deputy Director, Digital Strategy for Education  
Departmental Data Protection Officer

**Other Attendees**

Paul Kett

Shelley Cooper  
Laura Hoskins

Director General, Higher Education and Further  
Education  
Board Secretary  
Board Secretariat

**Apologies**

Gavin Williamson, Rt Hon MP  
Irene Lucas  
Indra Morris  
  
Hollie Godsmark

**Title**

Secretary of State  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Director General, Social Care, Mobility and  
Disadvantage  
Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State

## **1. INTRODUCTION, MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies from Secretary of State due to a Ministerial visit. Apologies were also noted from Irene Lucas, Indra Morris and Hollie Godsmark.
- 1.2 The minutes and action tracker from the previous meeting were accepted.
- 1.3 The Board did not declare any interests relevant to the agenda.

## **2. Cyber Security**

- 2.1 The Chair welcomed presenters to the meeting to discuss cyber security and the risks relating to the same.
- 2.2 The Board noted that Cyber Security risks to the Department were well understood with strong mitigations already in place. The risks were made up of a complex set of issues.
- 2.3 The Board was informed that the schools sector was most at risk of cyber-attacks and received an update on the Cyber Security work planned across the school sector to reduce risk of attack and to enable establishments to use technology in a way that was most beneficial, and secure, to them.
- 2.4 The Spending Review (SR) bid included an ask for funding to:
  - install new broadband connections in schools
  - improve in-school connectivity and implement the transition to the use of cloud software programmes for schools.
- 2.5 The Board noted that the Audit and Risk Committee (a sub-committee of the Board) frequently considered cyber security risk.
- 2.6 The Board was in agreement that improving broadband and connectivity in schools would facilitate the delivery of a world class education, alongside giving schools the capability to meet the required digital standards and improve their cyber security. Some schools would require support to meet cyber security standards.
- 2.7 The Board noted the importance of supporting schools to manage technology and cyber risks and that the cost of improving resilience and security should be assessed, taking into account the complexity of the schools sector.
- 2.8 The Board endorsed the support for:
  - prioritisation of the Spending Review Investment Cases.
  - prioritisation of funding at the Business Planning stage for Cyber Security element of Schools Resources Management steady state.

## **3. Spending Review Update**

3.1 The Chair invited Tony Foot to provide an update on the Department's response to the Spending Review.

3.2 Tony explained that the response would be submitted ahead of the Treasury's deadline and that settlements were expected to be confirmed in late October 2021. The Department's ambition would be to support pupils who had suffered most in the pandemic and to reverse disadvantage.

#### **4. AOB**

4.1 Board members noted an action on the availability of Apprenticeship opportunities in its supplier companies.

4.2 The meeting closed.