



**Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP**  
Secretary of State

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Paul Lakin  
Leader of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Riverside House  
Main Street  
Rotherham  
S60 1AE

7 October 2014

Dear Paul,

### **Draft statutory direction for consultation with the Council**

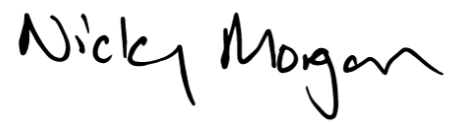
Thank you for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's letter to Edward Timpson dated 8 September 2014 outlining the actions you are taking in response to the Alexis Jay report. You will now have received a copy of Sir Michael Wilshaw's advice note to me of 30 September expressing his deep concerns about the emerging evidence from inspectors currently undertaking an inspection of children's social care services in Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. The strength of his note, and the emphasis on urgent action in advance of the completed inspection, gives me great concern.

My immediate priority is to ensure the safety of children in Rotherham. Therefore, accompanying this letter is a draft direction which I am minded to issue under section 497A (4B) of the Education Act 1996. This requires, in particular, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to provide full cooperation with my Commissioner, Malcolm Newsam, appointed to urgently investigate and address the failings identified by Sir Michael and recommend immediate next steps.

If you have representations to make on the draft direction, I would be grateful if you could direct these to my officials by 9 October 2014.

I am copying this letter to Martin Kimber, Chief Executive of the Council; Steve Ashley, Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board; and Christine

Beaumont, Lead Member for Children's Services.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicky Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP**  
**Secretary of State for Education**