

**Department for Education Board Meeting  
16 March 2023, 13:00 – 15:30**

**Member Attendees**

Rt Hon Gillian Keegan  
Baroness Barran

Susan Acland-Hood  
Toby Peyton-Jones  
Suzy Levy  
Peter Bazalgette  
Stuart McMinnies  
Jack Boyer  
Jane Cunliffe  
Indra Morris  
Graham Archer  
Tony Foot

**Title**

Secretary of State for Education (Chair)  
Minister for the School System and Student  
Finance  
Permanent Secretary  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Chief Operating Officer  
Director General, Families  
Interim Director General, Strategy  
Strategic Finance Director

**Presenters**

Helen Alderton  
Sarah Clarence-Smith  
Florence Sayers  
Suki Boora

**Title**

Head of Strategy Unit  
Head of Strategy Setting  
Strategy Unit  
Deputy Director, Industrial Action

**Other Attendees**

Julia Kinniburgh  
Andrew McCully  
John Edwards  
Emily Roche  
Laura Hoskins  
Anna Haynes  
Patrick Allen

**Title**

Director General, Skills  
Director General, Schools  
Director General, Regions  
Director, Strategy and Delivery  
Board Secretary  
Board Secretariat Officer  
Boardroom Apprentice

**Apologies**

Richard Pennycook

**Title**

Lead Non-executive Board Member

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

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members and attendees to the meeting, welcoming the new Boardroom Apprentice and thanking outgoing Director Generals, Graham Archer and Andrew McCully for their participation in Board meetings.
- 1.2 There were no new or change conflicts of interest and the minutes and action tracker of the previous meeting were approved.

**2 SPRING BUDGET**

2.1 The Board received an update on the outcome of the Spring Budget which had included a transformative outcome for childcare.

2.3 It was noted that the Department would continue to work with His Majesty's Treasury (HMT) to secure funding for school buildings.

2.2 The Chair thanked colleagues who had worked in an evidence-based way to secure the budget outcomes.

### **3 SECRETARY OF STATE'S PRIORITIES: AN 18-MONTH VIEW**

3.1 Board members and attendees discussed departmental delivery against the Secretary of State's and Prime Minister's priorities:

- The Secretary of State's delivery missions; members engaged in discussion about the Secretary of State's desire for the DfE to be a delivery Department. This was supported by the Chancellor.
- The Secretary of State expressed her continued investment in ensuring that no child was left behind and that they received the best start in life and best schooling before heading towards gaining skills in academia or vocationally.
- There would be increasing opportunities to use technology for delivery and in the sectors that the Department serves.
- Board members discussed the skills system and its contribution to the economy.

3.2 Board members engaged in a strategy-focused discussion which was guided by known delivery opportunities in the next 18 months, and on unknown, longer-term priorities.

3.3 Board members discussed noted departmental delivery challenges including the cross-cutting themes of workforce sufficiency (in schools and further education settings); local authority capacity; and mental health and wellbeing.

### **4 INDUSTRIAL ACTION UPDATE**

4.1 Board members received an update on recent sector industrial action.

### **5 AOB**

5.1 It was agreed that ALB governance would be delegated to the Audit and Risk Committee,

5.2 The meeting closed at 15:15.