



Department
for Education

Star Chamber Scrutiny Board – Applications for School membership is now open

The [Star Chamber Scrutiny Board](#) (SCSB) is a panel of external partners from local authorities, schools, school trusts, head teacher unions and Ofsted who review all Department for Education (DfE) data collection proposals relating to services for children, schools and families.

Star Chamber exists as a gateway process and looks to ensure that all new DfE data collections, or revisions to existing collections, are feasible, necessary, provide value for money and are timed to add as small a burden to the front line as possible.

Applications for membership of the SCSB are currently invited from suitably qualified and experienced individuals based in schools (including academies and academy trusts).

Key Responsibilities of Scrutiny Board members

The primary purpose of the Star Chamber is to consider business cases for new or amended data collections. The Board has full authority to decide whether these collections can proceed after considering issues around technical feasibility, value for money, relevance, timing and collection methodology. The Board also has a secondary role in providing strategic input on a variety of data-related matters affecting the Department.

The SCSB does not have a remit to consider the Department's policy intent or research programme as both have their own review mechanisms.

Specialisms and gaps

The Board's current membership covers a wide range of specialisms including:

- technical and management knowledge of school and LA management information systems and related software packages;
- process knowledge of statutory and non-statutory returns made by schools and LAs;
- management of resources relating to the data collection function within LAs;
- the use of data in the performance management of children's services;
- quality assurance.

We are currently seeking applications from individuals from schools and school trusts to compliment our existing membership, and whilst not essential, individuals with technical knowledge of school and/or LA management information systems and related software packages are particularly welcomed. We particularly encourage applications from under-

represented groups as the Star Chamber reflects the sector that it represents. Candidates are welcome to speak to us in confidence about any adjustments or requirements they may have to support their application for membership.

Person Specification (school representatives)

A school member of the SCSB should have or be:

- a head or deputy head teacher in post for at least two years or a senior data/business manager in post for at least five years;
- currently responsible for collecting, managing and sharing school data;
- understanding of the need to collect data from schools and the wider strategic benefits this can bring not only to the department but to the sector;
- confident to challenge the way things are done and able to identify solutions for improvement;
- committed to reducing bureaucracy around data collection, to effective use of resources, and to real partnership working; and
- able to take part in most scheduled meetings including ad hoc meetings where your area of expertise is required.

Commitment expected

The SCSB meets once a month (subject to business), usually on the first Thursday apart from August when there is no meeting. Meetings take place face to face in central London and members often find most value by attending in person; reasonable, standard class travel expenses can be reimbursed. By agreement, remote participation via video-conference is available where travel is not possible.

It is essential that interested persons should be in a position to participate in the monthly meetings and to devote time for associated preparation where they have experience, knowledge or interest.

Membership is devolved to the individual who is expected to represent the sector rather than their individual school or trust; there is no requirement for a deputy to attend in a member's absence. Due to the time commitment required, successful individual(s) will need to ensure that their employer is agreeable to their membership.

Benefits of membership

Membership of the SCSB can provide a unique opportunity for personal and career development. It provides an ideal opportunity to be involved in managing and directly influencing the data burden placed on schools and local authorities and to understand why such requests are made.

Members also benefit from belonging to a network of children's data professionals with a broad range of skills, knowledge and experience, including policy and operational staff from

the Department for Education. Working at a national level with central government as part of the SCSB may enhance the profile of the member and potentially of their school or trust.

How to apply / further details

Please note that this role is not remunerated is offered on a voluntary basis only.

Individuals who are interested in the role should send a short summary (maximum two sides of A4 paper) that covers:

- previous experience and how they meet the person specification;
- what they can bring to the role;
- reasons for applying; and
- details of how they can satisfy the commitment described above.

Applications should be made by email to:

StarChamber.Mailbox@education.gov.uk.

All applications will be acknowledged and will be considered by the Chair of the Star Chamber Scrutiny Board.

An informal telephone discussion will be arranged for short listed applicants to discuss the role and to ensure their suitability. Further details will be provided to successful candidates.

Closing date for applications is Friday 28th November 2025.

When a vacancy arises the Star Chamber Secretariat will contact organisations that have links with the sector to invite the submission of names and details of possible candidates.

These organisations are asked to share details of vacancies through their networks and will be notified the names of the successful applicant(s). Names of successful applicants will also be published on the Star Chamber website.

The Star Chamber secretariat will also use a number of other routes to advertise the role, approach potential candidates and seek applications from suitably qualified individuals.

For further information, or to arrange an informal conversation please contact us:

Email: StarChamber.MAILBOX@education.gov.uk

Website: [Star Chamber Scrutiny Board](#)