



Mr James Hindson: Professional conduct panel meeting outcome

**Panel decision and reasons on behalf of the
Secretary of State for Education**

August 2026

Contents

Introduction	3
Allegations	4
Summary of evidence	4
Documents	4
Statement of agreed facts	5
Decision and reasons	5
Findings of fact	6
Panel's recommendation to the Secretary of State	11
Decision and reasons on behalf of the Secretary of State	15

Professional conduct panel decision and recommendations, and decision on behalf of the Secretary of State

Teacher: Mr James Hindson
Teacher ref number: 8155989
Teacher date of birth: 2 April 1957
TRA reference: 25576
Date of determination: 20 August 2026
Former employer: Moreton Hall School, Shropshire

Introduction

A professional conduct panel (“the panel”) of the Teaching Regulation Agency (“the TRA”) convened on 20 August 2026 by way of a virtual meeting, to consider the case of Mr James Hindson.

The panel members were Mr Alan Wells (former teacher panellist – in the chair), Ms Gill Lyon (teacher panellist) and Ms Sue Davis (lay panellist).

The legal adviser to the panel was Ms Abigail Hubert of Birketts LLP Solicitors.

In advance of the meeting, after taking into consideration the public interest and the interests of justice, the TRA agreed to a request from Mr Hindson that the allegations be considered without a hearing. Mr Hindson provided a signed statement of agreed facts and admitted unacceptable professional conduct and/or conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute. The panel considered the case at a meeting without the attendance of the presenting officer, Jack Ashford of Capsticks LLP, Mr Hindson or any representative for Mr Hindson.

The meeting took place in private.

Allegations

The panel considered the allegations set out in the notice of meeting dated 22 May 2026.

It was alleged that Mr Hindson was guilty of unacceptable professional conduct and/or conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute, in that:

1. On a date on or prior to 7 May 2025 he searched YouTube using one or more of the terms listed in Schedule A;
2. On 7 May 2025 he displayed one or more of the search terms to pupils during a Geography lesson:
 - a) 'teen bikini haul'; and/or
 - b) 'teens in thongs'; and/or
 - c) "girls in thongs".
3. His conduct at paragraph 1 above was conduct of a sexual nature and/or sexually motivated.

Schedule A:

[REDACTED]

Mr Hindson admitted allegations 1, 2(a), 2(b), 2(c) and 3 and further admitted that those admitted facts amounted to unacceptable professional conduct and/or conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute.

At the outset of the meeting, the panel noted that Schedule A had not been included within the Notice of Meeting. However, the panel was satisfied that Mr Hindson was fully aware of the allegations against him. In particular, he had responded to the Notice of Referral dated 6 November 2025, which set out the allegations in full, and had agreed the Statement of Agreed Facts. The panel was therefore satisfied that the omission of Schedule A from the Notice of Meeting had caused no unfairness or prejudice to Mr Hindson. Accordingly, the panel proceeded to consider the allegations as set out above.

Summary of evidence

Documents

In advance of the hearing, the panel received a bundle of documents which included:

Section 1: Chronology, anonymised pupil list and list of key people – pages 4 to 6

Section 2: Notice of referral, response and notice of meeting – pages 7 to 37

Section 3: Statement of agreed facts and presenting officer representations – pages 38 to 47

Section 4: TRA documents – pages 48 to 255

Section 5: Teacher documents – pages 256 to 268

The panel members confirmed that they had read all of the documents within the bundle, in advance of the hearing.

In the consideration of this case, the panel had regard to the Teacher Misconduct: Disciplinary Procedures for the Teaching Profession May 2020 (the “Procedures”).

Statement of agreed facts

The panel considered a statement of agreed facts which was signed by Mr Hindson on 11 February 2026 and the presenting officer on 27 February 2026.

Decision and reasons

The panel announced its decision and reasons as follows:

The panel carefully considered the case before it and reached a decision.

In advance of the meeting the TRA agreed to a request from Mr Hindson for the allegations to be considered without a hearing. The panel had the ability to direct that the case be considered at a hearing if required in the interests of justice or in the public interest. The panel did not determine that such a direction was necessary or appropriate in this case.

Mr Hindson commenced employment as a teacher at Moreton Hall School (“the School”) on 1 April 2025 on a fixed term contract. Prior to this fixed term contract with the School, Mr Hindson had been employed by the School from 1 September 2012 until 31 August 2023.

On 7 May 2025, pupils reported that Mr Hindson had displayed his previous YouTube searches on the large screen during a geography lesson. The pupils reported that as Mr Hindson clicked on the search bar whilst displaying his YouTube account, it revealed his previous searches including one or more of the following terms, “*teen bikini haul*”, “*teens in thongs*” and “*girls in thongs*”.

On 15 May 2025, the School's IT team searched Mr Hindson's Google account, inputting "teen" and found searches matching those reported by the pupils. The searches were confirmed to have been made between 1 April 2021 and 30 November 2023. Mr Hindson was dismissed from the School on the same day.

On 20 May 2025, the School referred the matter to the TRA.

Findings of fact

The findings of fact are as follows:

The panel found the following particulars of the allegations against you proved, for these reasons:

1. On a date on or prior to 7 May 2025 you searched YouTube using one or more of the terms listed in Schedule A;

The panel noted that Mr Hindson admitted allegation 1. Notwithstanding his admission, the panel made a determination based on the evidence before it.

The panel had sight of a video that was taken as part of the School's investigation which displayed the previous searches made by Mr Hindson on his YouTube account. The panel noted that the video showed that the searches that had been made included one or more of the terms listed in Schedule A. The panel further considered the screenshots of the searches produced as part of the School's investigation. The screenshots again included one or more of the terms at Schedule A.

The panel noted from the video and screenshots that the searches were made between 10 April 2021 and 9 August 2023.

The panel had sight of the School's investigation report which stated that Person C and Person D had reviewed Mr Hindson's search history and when they searched in his history for the term "teen" it generated multiple results with "common themes of searches being for teens in little clothing, teens engaging in athletic activity, or relating to sexual activity".

The panel also considered an email dated 18 December 2025 from the [REDACTED] which summarised information obtained from Person D. The email set out that Person D stated that they and Person C conducted a search on Mr Hindson's Google account history, focusing on YouTube in particular and found a long list of inappropriate videos that he had searched for. Person D stated that Mr Hindson had searched for terms such as 'teen bikini try on etc'. Person D confirmed that screenshots of the searches were obtained.

The panel found allegation 1 proven.

2. On 7 May 2025 you displayed one or more of the search terms to pupils during a Geography lesson:

- a) 'teen bikini haul'; and/or**
- b) 'teens in thongs'; and/or**
- c) "girls in thongs".**

The panel noted that Mr Hindson admitted allegations 2(a), 2(b) and 2(c).

Notwithstanding his admission, the panel made a determination based on the evidence before it.

The panel noted a photograph in the bundle taken by Pupil A during a geography lesson. Whilst the image clearly showed that Mr Hindson was conducting a search on YouTube, the quality of the photograph was insufficient to enable the panel to determine the historical search terms displayed.

The panel considered the written submissions of Mr Hindson, who stated that he did accidentally show his past YouTube searches during a lesson and did not deny that he made the searches listed. He stated that he made the searches whilst at home and when searching for a YouTube clip to illustrate aspects of global trade based on a song during a lesson, he accidentally displayed the searches but had not intended to do so.

The panel also considered the School's investigation report, which recorded that Person A met with Person B at 1:10pm on 7 May 2025 to report concerns raised by Pupil A and Pupil B regarding an incident that had occurred during their geography lesson. According to the report, Person B explained that Mr Hindson had been using YouTube during the lesson and that, when he clicked on the YouTube search bar, his recent search history became visible on the screen.

The investigation report recorded that Pupil A and Pupil B stated that they had seen a search term reading "teen bikini haul" and another term which they recalled as either "girls in thongs" or "teens in thongs", although they were unable to remember which. The panel noted that Person B subsequently spoke with Pupil A and Pupil B and was shown the photograph taken during the lesson, referred to above.

The panel found, on the balance of probabilities, that the search term "teen bikini haul" and at least one of the search terms "teens in thongs" or "girls in thongs" were displayed to pupils during the geography lesson on 7 May 2025. Whilst the panel could not determine whether the latter term was "teens in thongs" or "girls in thongs", it was satisfied that one of those terms was displayed.

Accordingly, the panel found allegation 2 proven.

3. Your conduct at paragraph 1 above was conduct of a sexual nature and/or sexually motivated.

Having found allegation 1 proven, the panel considered whether the conduct was of a sexual nature and/or sexually motivated. The panel noted that Mr Hindson admitted allegation 3. Notwithstanding his admission, the panel made a determination based on the evidence before it.

The panel's attention was drawn to section 78 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and to the cases of *Sait v The General Medical Council [2018]*, *Basson v General Medical Council [2018]* and *The General Medical Council v Haris [2021]* by the legal adviser.

The panel considered the definition of what conduct is, or is not, to be regarded as 'sexual'. The panel was referred to the case of *Sait v The General Medical Council [2018]* which referred to section 78 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003: "*penetration, touching or any other activity is sexual if a reasonable person would consider that (a) whatever its circumstances or any person's purpose in relation to it, it is because of its nature sexual, or (b) because of its nature it may be sexual and because of its circumstances or the purpose of any person in relation to it (or both) it is sexual.*"

The panel considered all of the evidence before it and concluded that the conduct found proven would be regarded by a reasonable person as sexual in nature. In reaching that conclusion, the panel noted that a number of the search terms identified, including "teens having sex", "teens stripping" and "good teen sex", were inherently sexual in nature.

The panel concluded that Mr Hindson's conduct at allegation 1 was conduct of a sexual nature.

The panel considered whether the conduct at allegation 1 was sexually motivated. It noted that in *Basson* it was stated that, "[a] sexual motive means that the conduct was done either in pursuit of sexual gratification or in pursuit of a sexual relationship".

The panel was also mindful of the Court of Appeal's conclusion in *Haris*. The court found in that case that, "[i]n the absence of a plausible innocent explanation for what he did, the facts spoke for themselves. A sexual motive was plainly more likely than not; I would go so far as to say that that inference was overwhelming."

The panel felt that the actions of Mr Hindson were inherently sexual. In reaching that conclusion, it noted that the searches had been carried out over a prolonged period and that many of the search terms shared common themes of a sexual nature.

The panel carefully considered whether there was any innocent explanation for the conduct but found none on the evidence before it.

The panel concluded that on the balance of probabilities, there was sufficient evidence that Mr Hindson's conduct was sexually motivated.

The panel found allegation 3 proven.

Findings as to unacceptable professional conduct and/or conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute

Having found all of the allegations proved, the panel went on to consider whether the facts of those proved allegations amounted to unacceptable professional conduct and/or conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute.

In doing so, the panel had regard to the document Teacher misconduct: The prohibition of teachers, which is referred to as "the Advice".

The panel first considered whether the conduct of Mr Hindson, in relation to the facts found proved, involved breaches of the Teachers' Standards.

The panel considered that, by reference to Part 2, Mr Hindson was in breach of the following standards:

- Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by
 - treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position; and
 - having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions.
- Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school in which they teach and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.
- Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

The panel also considered whether Mr Hindson's conduct displayed behaviours associated with any of the offences listed on pages 12 and 13 of the Advice.

The panel considered the offence of any activity involving viewing, taking, making, possessing, distributing or publishing any indecent photograph or image or pseudo photograph or image of a child, or permitting any such activity, including one-off incidents was relevant. The panel noted that it had no evidence as to the nature of any images or photographs that may have been viewed and further noted that the police determined that the conduct fell below the threshold of criminality. The panel also concluded that

there was insufficient evidence before it to establish that Mr Hindson had viewed any indecent image or photograph of a child.

The panel however, considered the offence of sexual activity was relevant. The Advice indicates that where behaviours associated with such an offence exist, a panel is likely to conclude that an individual's conduct would amount to unacceptable professional conduct.

The panel noted that allegation 1 and allegation 3 took place outside the education setting as the searches were all conducted outside of normal school hours. The panel felt that despite this, Mr Hindson's conduct was relevant to his position as a teacher. The searches were consistently focused on teenagers, with repeated reference to "teens". The panel placed weight on both the volume of searches and the extended period over which they were undertaken, which demonstrated a sustained pattern of behaviour rather than isolated incidents.

The panel considered it highly relevant that Mr Hindson was teaching secondary-aged pupils at an all-girls' boarding school and that the subject matter of the searches closely reflected the age group of the pupils in his care.

The panel also noted that some of the search terms were displayed during a lesson and, whilst it accepted that Mr Hindson may not have appreciated that his personal search activity could be linked to, and accessible through, his school account, and that he had not deliberately shown the search terms to pupils, it nevertheless considered that he bore responsibility for his use of technology and for the exposure of pupils to those inappropriate search terms.

The panel further considered the impact on pupils. It noted that Mr Hindson believed the pupils' attitudes towards him changed following the incident and the panel considered it likely that the display of the search terms could have caused embarrassment to pupils.

The panel also noted that Mr Hindson had completed training in "raising awareness in safeguarding and protecting children". The panel therefore considered that he should have been aware that searches of this nature, particularly when they related to teenagers, would be regarded as wholly inappropriate and inconsistent with the standards expected of a teacher.

For these reasons, the panel was satisfied that the conduct of Mr Hindson amounted to misconduct of a serious nature which fell significantly short of the standards expected of the profession.

Accordingly, the panel was satisfied that Mr Hindson was guilty of unacceptable professional conduct.

In relation to whether Mr Hindson's actions amounted to conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute, the panel took into account the way the teaching profession is viewed by others. It considered the influence that teachers may have on pupils, parents and others in the community. The panel also took account of the uniquely influential role that teachers can hold in pupils' lives and the fact that pupils must be able to view teachers as role models in the way that they behave.

In considering the issue of disrepute, the panel also considered whether Mr Hindson's conduct displayed behaviours associated with any of the offences in the list that begins on page 12 of the Advice.

As set out above in the panel's findings as to whether Mr Hindson was guilty of unacceptable professional conduct, the panel found that the offence of sexual activity was relevant.

The panel considered that the findings of misconduct are serious, and the conduct displayed would be likely to have a negative impact on Mr Hindson's status as a teacher. The panel also considered that Mr Hindson's conduct could potentially damage the public's perception of a teacher.

Whilst the panel noted that the conduct occurred outside the school setting, it considered this factor was outweighed by the fact that the consequences of the conduct extended into the school environment, resulting in pupils being exposed to the search terms. The panel also again noted that a number of the search terms related to teenagers and sexual themes. The panel considered that any reasonable member of the public would regard it as wholly inappropriate for a teacher to search for such terms and, in particular, for pupils subsequently to be exposed to those terms, even inadvertently.

For these reasons, the panel found that Mr Hindson's actions constituted conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute.

Having found the facts of allegations 1, 2 and 3 proved, the panel further found that Mr Hindson's conduct amounted to both unacceptable professional conduct and conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute.

Panel's recommendation to the Secretary of State

Given the panel's findings in respect of unacceptable professional conduct and conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute, it was necessary for the panel to go on to consider whether it would be appropriate to recommend the imposition of a prohibition order by the Secretary of State.

In considering whether to recommend to the Secretary of State that a prohibition order should be made, the panel had to consider whether it would be an appropriate and

proportionate measure, and whether it would be in the public interest to do so. Prohibition orders should not be given in order to be punitive, or to show that blame has been apportioned, although they are likely to have punitive effect.

The panel had regard to the particular public interest considerations set out in the Advice and, having done so, found a number of them to be relevant in this case, namely: the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils, the protection of other members of the public, the maintenance of public confidence in the profession and declaring and upholding proper standards of conduct.

In light of the panel's findings against Mr Hindson, which involved searching for inappropriate terms on YouTube and inadvertently displaying his search history including these searches to pupils during a lesson, there was a strong public interest consideration in the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils.

Similarly, the panel considered that public confidence in the profession could be seriously weakened if conduct such as that found against Mr Hindson were not treated with the utmost seriousness when regulating the conduct of the profession.

The panel was of the view that a strong public interest consideration in declaring proper standards of conduct in the profession was also present as the conduct found against Mr Hindson was outside that which could reasonably be tolerated.

In addition to the public interest considerations set out above, the panel went on to consider whether there was a public interest in retaining Mr Hindson in the profession. The panel recognised that there was evidence of Mr Hindson's ability as an educator and his positive contribution to the field of education. In particular, the panel noted his previous work with the Field Studies Council, his involvement in international projects, and the evidence of his good reputation within the wider educational community. The panel acknowledged that these matters reflected positively on Mr Hindson's professional practice and broader contribution to education. However, the panel concluded that these factors could not outweigh the significant adverse public interest considerations identified above. The panel was satisfied that Mr Hindson's conduct represented a serious breach of the standards of behaviour expected of a teacher and that the public interest in maintaining confidence in the profession and upholding proper standards therefore outweighed any public interest in retaining him in the profession.

The panel considered carefully the seriousness of the behaviour, noting that the Advice states that the expectation of both the public and pupils is that members of the teaching profession maintain an exemplary level of integrity and ethical standards at all times.

In view of the clear public interest considerations that were present, the panel considered carefully whether or not it would be proportionate to impose a prohibition order, taking into account the effect that this would have on Mr Hindson.

The panel took further account of the Advice, which suggests that a prohibition order may be appropriate if certain behaviours of a teacher have been proved. In the list of such behaviours, those that were relevant in this case were:

- serious departure from the personal and professional conduct elements of the Teachers' Standards; and
- sexual misconduct, e.g. involving actions that were sexually motivated or of a sexual nature...

Whilst the panel again noted one of the behaviours listed includes any activity involving viewing, taking, making, possessing, distributing, or publishing any indecent photograph or image, or indecent pseudo photograph or image, of a child, or permitting such activity, including one-off incidents, as above, the panel did not consider it had enough evidence to find this behaviour proved.

Even though some of the behaviour found proved in this case indicated that a prohibition order would be appropriate, the panel went on to consider the mitigating factors. Mitigating factors may indicate that a prohibition order would not be appropriate or proportionate.

There was no evidence that Mr Hindson's actions in relation to allegations 1 and 3 were not deliberate. However, whilst Mr Hindson remained responsible for his use of technology in the classroom, the panel did not find that he deliberately displayed the search terms to pupils during their geography lesson.

There was no evidence to suggest that Mr Hindson was acting under extreme duress, e.g. a physical threat or significant intimidation.

Whilst the panel again recognised Mr Hindson's positive contribution to the education sector, as set out above, it did not consider that this amounted to evidence of exceptionally high standards of personal and professional conduct or an exceptional contribution to the education sector. The panel also did not accept that the incident was out of character, having regard to the number of searches undertaken over an extended period.

The panel noted the character reference from Reverend Peter Hubbard, who described Mr Hindson as "dependable and hardworking". However, the panel placed limited weight on this reference as it felt it was not directly relevant to Mr Hindson's ability as a teacher.

The panel considered Mr Hindson's written submissions and found them to be very credible and persuasive. The panel considered that Mr Hindson expressed remorse for his actions and insight into how his conduct may have affected the welfare of pupils and the impact on his colleagues and the School. The panel found it persuasive that Mr Hindson had stated "I am ashamed of my behaviour and the harm it has already caused

to a number of students, and the potential it has for harming reputation of the teaching profession..." [sic]. The panel also acknowledged that Mr Hindson had actively removed himself from roles outside the teaching profession that involved children including stepping down as a Church Warden and as a member of the Parochial Church Council.

The panel gave careful consideration as to whether it would be proportionate to conclude this case with no recommendation of prohibition, considering whether the publication of the findings made by the panel would be sufficient.

The panel was of the view that, applying the standard of the ordinary intelligent citizen, it would not be a proportionate and appropriate response to recommend no prohibition order. Recommending that the publication of adverse findings would be sufficient would unacceptably compromise the public interest considerations present in this case, despite the severity of the consequences for Mr Hindson of prohibition.

The panel was of the view that prohibition was both proportionate and appropriate. The panel decided that the public interest considerations outweighed the interests of Mr Hindson. The nature of the searches and the recurring "teenage" theme throughout was a significant factor in forming that opinion. Whilst the panel noted that not all of the search terms were overtly sexual in nature, it was concerned by the overall pattern of searches, in particular search terms such as "teen first time sex", "twerking schools teens", "teens having sex" and "good teen sex" and considered that the conduct would be viewed by members of the public as inappropriate for a teacher. The panel also noted that Mr Hindson had accepted that his conduct was of a sexual nature and sexually motivated. Accordingly, the panel made a recommendation to the Secretary of State that a prohibition order should be imposed with immediate effect.

The panel went on to consider whether or not it would be appropriate for it to decide to recommend a review period of the order. The panel was mindful that the Advice states that a prohibition order applies for life, but there may be circumstances, in any given case, that may make it appropriate to allow a teacher to apply to have the prohibition order reviewed after a specified period of time that may not be less than 2 years.

The Advice indicates that there are certain types of case where, if relevant, the public interest will have greater relevance and weigh in favour of not offering a review period.

None of the listed characteristics were engaged by the panel's findings.

The Advice also indicates that there are certain other types of cases where it is likely that the public interest will have greater relevance and weigh in favour of a longer period before a review is considered appropriate.

None of the listed characteristics were engaged by the panel's findings.

The panel considered that Mr Hindson had shown a good level of insight and remorse for his actions and considered that the risk of repetition of this type of behaviour would be low. The panel noted that Mr Hindson had made admissions, accepted that his conduct was inappropriate and had demonstrated genuine reflection on the impact of his actions on pupils, the School and the wider profession. The panel also took into account the significant consequences he had already experienced, including the termination of his employment and his resignation from his position within the Church.

The panel therefore decided that the findings indicated a situation in which a review period would be appropriate and, as such, decided that it would be proportionate, in all the circumstances, for the prohibition order to be recommended with provisions for a two-year review period.

Decision and reasons on behalf of the Secretary of State

I have given very careful consideration to this case and to the recommendation of the panel in respect of both sanction and review period.

In considering this case, I have also given very careful attention to the Advice that the Secretary of State has published concerning the prohibition of teachers.

In this case, the panel has found all of the allegations proven and found that those proven facts amount to unacceptable professional conduct and/or conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute.

The panel has made a recommendation to the Secretary of State that Mr James Hindson should be the subject of a prohibition order, with a review period of two years.

In particular, the panel has found that Mr Hindson is in breach of the following standards:

- Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by
 - treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position; and
 - having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions.
- Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school in which they teach and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.

- Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

The panel finds that the conduct of Mr Hindson fell significantly short of the standards expected of the profession.

The findings of misconduct are serious as they include a secondary school teacher conducting sexually motivated YouTube searches that were consistently focused on teenagers, with repeated reference to “teens”, and allowing several of those search terms to be displayed to pupils during a lesson.

I have to determine whether the imposition of a prohibition order is proportionate and in the public interest. In assessing that for this case, I have considered the overall aim of a prohibition order which is to protect pupils and to maintain public confidence in the profession. I have considered the extent to which a prohibition order in this case would achieve that aim taking into account the impact that it will have on the individual teacher. I have also asked myself whether a less intrusive measure, such as the published finding of unacceptable professional conduct and conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute, would itself be sufficient to achieve the overall aim. I have to consider whether the consequences of such a publication are themselves sufficient. I have considered therefore whether or not prohibiting Mr Hindson, and the impact that will have on the teacher, is proportionate and in the public interest.

In this case, I have considered the extent to which a prohibition order would protect children and safeguard pupils. The panel has offered this observation:

“In light of the panel’s findings against Mr Hindson, which involved searching for inappropriate terms on YouTube and inadvertently displaying his search history including these searches to pupils during a lesson, there was a strong public interest consideration in the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils.”

A prohibition order would therefore prevent such a risk from being present in the future.

I have also taken into account the panel’s comments on insight and remorse, which it sets out as follows:

“The panel considered Mr Hindson’s written submissions and found them to be very credible and persuasive. The panel considered that Mr Hindson expressed remorse for his actions and insight into how his conduct may have affected the welfare of pupils and the impact on his colleagues and the School. The panel found it persuasive that Mr Hindson had stated “I am ashamed of my behaviour and the harm it has already caused to a number of students, and the potential it has for harming reputation of the teaching profession...” [sic]. The panel also acknowledged that Mr Hindson had actively removed himself from roles outside the teaching profession that involved

children including stepping down as a Church Warden and as a member of the Parochial Church Council.”

Elsewhere, the panel reaches this conclusion:

“The panel considered that Mr Hindson had shown a good level of insight and remorse for his actions and considered that the risk of repetition of this type of behaviour would be low.”

I have noted the panel’s comments regarding Mr Hindson’s insight and remorse and its assessment of the risk of repetition and have given this element some weight in reaching my decision.

I have gone on to consider the extent to which a prohibition order would maintain public confidence in the profession. The panel comments:

“Whilst the panel noted that the conduct occurred outside the school setting, it considered this factor was outweighed by the fact that the consequences of the conduct extended into the school environment, resulting in pupils being exposed to the search terms. The panel also again noted that a number of the search terms related to teenagers and sexual themes. The panel considered that any reasonable member of the public would regard it as wholly inappropriate for a teacher to search for such terms and, in particular, for pupils subsequently to be exposed to those terms, even inadvertently.

For these reasons, the panel found that Mr Hindson’s actions constituted conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute.”

I am particularly mindful of the finding in this case of a teacher using sexually themed search terms focused on teenagers over an extended period, as well as allowing some of those search terms to be displayed to his pupils, and the negative impact that such a finding is likely to have on the reputation of the profession.

I have had to consider that the public has a high expectation of professional standards of all teachers and that the public might regard a failure to impose a prohibition order as a failure to uphold those high standards. In weighing these considerations, I have had to consider the matter from the point of view of an “ordinary intelligent and well-informed citizen.”

I have considered whether the publication of a finding of unacceptable professional conduct and conduct likely to bring the profession into disrepute, in the absence of a prohibition order, can itself be regarded by such a person as being a proportionate response to the misconduct that has been found proven in this case.

I have also considered the impact of a prohibition order on Mr Hindson himself. The panel comments:

“In addition to the public interest considerations set out above, the panel went on to consider whether there was a public interest in retaining Mr Hindson in the profession. The panel recognised that there was evidence of Mr Hindson's ability as an educator and his positive contribution to the field of education. In particular, the panel noted his previous work with the Field Studies Council, his involvement in international projects, and the evidence of his good reputation within the wider educational community. The panel acknowledged that these matters reflected positively on Mr Hindson's professional practice and broader contribution to education. However, the panel concluded that these factors could not outweigh the significant adverse public interest considerations identified above. The panel was satisfied that Mr Hindson's conduct represented a serious breach of the standards of behaviour expected of a teacher and that the public interest in maintaining confidence in the profession and upholding proper standards therefore outweighed any public interest in retaining him in the profession.”

A prohibition order would prevent Mr Hindson from teaching. A prohibition order would also clearly deprive the public of his contribution to the profession for the period that it is in force.

In this case, I have placed considerable weight on the nature of the panel's findings, which involved a teacher of teenage girls conducting sexually themed searches focused on teenagers and allowing some of those searches to be displayed to his pupils during a lesson. I have also placed considerable weight on the likely damage to the standing of the profession as a result of Mr Hindson's behaviour. The panel makes this observation:

“The panel was of the view that prohibition was both proportionate and appropriate. The panel decided that the public interest considerations outweighed the interests of Mr Hindson. The nature of the searches and the recurring “teenage” theme throughout was a significant factor in forming that opinion. Whilst the panel noted that not all of the search terms were overtly sexual in nature, it was concerned by the overall pattern of searches, in particular search terms such as “teen first time sex”, “twerking schools teens”, “teens having sex” and “good teen sex” and considered that the conduct would be viewed by members of the public as inappropriate for a teacher. The panel also noted that Mr Hindson had accepted that his conduct was of a sexual nature and sexually motivated. Accordingly, the panel made a recommendation to the Secretary of State that a prohibition order should be imposed with immediate effect.”

I have given less weight in my consideration of sanction therefore, to the contribution that Mr Hindson has made to the profession. In my view, it is necessary to impose a prohibition order in order to maintain public confidence in the profession. A published

decision, in light of the circumstances in this case, does not in my view satisfy the public interest requirement concerning public confidence in the profession.

For these reasons, I have concluded that a prohibition order is proportionate and in the public interest in order to achieve the intended aims of a prohibition order.

I have gone on to consider the matter of a review period. In this case, the panel has recommended a two-year review period.

In doing so, the panel has referenced the Advice as follows:

“The Advice indicates that there are certain types of case where, if relevant, the public interest will have greater relevance and weigh in favour of not offering a review period.

None of the listed characteristics were engaged by the panel's findings.

The Advice also indicates that there are certain other types of cases where it is likely that the public interest will have greater relevance and weigh in favour of a longer period before a review is considered appropriate.

None of the listed characteristics were engaged by the panel's findings.”

Additionally, the panel provides these comments regarding its consideration of the Advice:

“Whilst the panel again noted one of the behaviours listed includes any activity involving viewing, taking, making, possessing, distributing, or publishing any indecent photograph or image, or indecent pseudo photograph or image, of a child, or permitting such activity, including one-off incidents, as above, the panel did not consider it had enough evidence to find this behaviour proved.”

In making my decision, I have also noted this observation provided by the panel:

“The panel noted that it had no evidence as to the nature of any images or photographs that may have been viewed and further noted that the police determined that the conduct fell below the threshold of criminality. The panel also concluded that there was insufficient evidence before it to establish that Mr Hindson had viewed any indecent image or photograph of a child.”

I have also given weight to the panel's concluding remarks:

“The panel considered that Mr Hindson had shown a good level of insight and remorse for his actions and considered that the risk of repetition of this type of behaviour would be low. The panel noted that Mr Hindson had made admissions, accepted that his conduct was inappropriate and had demonstrated genuine reflection on the impact of his actions on pupils, the School and the wider profession. The panel also took into

account the significant consequences he had already experienced, including the termination of his employment and his resignation from his position within the Church.

The panel therefore decided that the findings indicated a situation in which a review period would be appropriate and, as such, decided that it would be proportionate, in all the circumstances, for the prohibition order to be recommended with provisions for a two-year review period.”

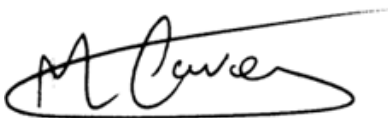
I have considered whether a two-year review period reflects the seriousness of the findings and is a proportionate period to achieve the aim of maintaining public confidence in the profession. In this case, factors mean that I agree with the panel’s recommendation that such a review period is appropriate and proportionate to achieve the aim of maintaining public confidence in the profession. These factors are the nature of the misconduct found and its likely negative impact on the standing of the profession.

I consider therefore that a two-year review period is required to satisfy the maintenance of public confidence in the profession.

This means that Mr James Hindson is prohibited from teaching indefinitely and cannot teach in any school, sixth form college, relevant youth accommodation or children’s home in England. He may apply for the prohibition order to be set aside, but not until 28 August 2028, two years from the date of this order at the earliest. This is not an automatic right to have the prohibition order removed. If he does apply, a panel will meet to consider whether the prohibition order should be set aside. Without a successful application, Mr Hindson remains prohibited from teaching indefinitely.

This order takes effect from the date on which it is served on the teacher.

Mr Hindson has a right of appeal to the High Court within 28 days from the date he is given notice of this order.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Cavey', enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

Decision maker: Marc Cavey

Date: 24 August 2026

This decision is taken by the decision maker named above on behalf of the Secretary of State.