

PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release
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From Comprehensive Future**

Consultation on the Government's proposed new School Admissions Code ends this Friday (19th August).

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schooladmissions/a00195/current-codes-and-regulations>

Comprehensive Future has now responded. The response is on our website –

<http://www.comprehensivefuture.org.uk/PDF/SchoolAdmissionsCode.pdf>

The Draft Code is much shorter than the last but it seems unlikely that it will result in a fairer system, unless it is amended as a result of the consultation. As more schools opt out to become academies they become their own admission authorities and their opportunity to pick and choose their intake increases. There are welcome changes in the Code – for example the extension of the right to object to the adjudicator. But concerns remain, for example the Code if implemented as proposed will allow schools to give priority to children of staff and to siblings of pupils who have left the school. This hardly seems fair.

Meanwhile monitoring of fairness in admissions could be weakened as the Education Bill, if enacted, ends the requirement on local authorities to set up admission forums to consider admission issues locally. The Bill also restricts the powers of the adjudicator to impose changes.

Margaret Tulloch Secretary of Comprehensive Future said –

'Unless there is very effective scrutiny and monitoring it is likely that as more schools become admission authorities covert selection and segregation will increase. Effective scrutiny becomes less likely if admission forums disappear, school adjudicator's powers are reduced and local authorities do not use the powers they have to make sure everyone follows the rules. If this happens many parents will lose out.'

END

Notes

1. Comprehensive Future is the campaign for fair school admissions, PO Box 444327, London SW20 0WD www.comprehensivefuture.org.uk
2. Contact - Margaret Tulloch 020 8947 5758, 07836 741974
3. There is still time to respond to the consultation.

**Comprehensive Future
PO Box 44327 London SW20 0WD
www.comprehensivefuture.org.uk**