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Rt Hon James Cleverly,
Secretary of State
Home Department
2 Marsham Street
London
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DBS checks for Supply Teachers working through employment businesses

Dear James,

Both NASUWT and the Recruitment & Employment Confederation (REC) are extremely concerned about the current delays for enhanced DBS checks reported to us by supply teachers and employment agencies. As you know without these checks someone can't be supplied for an assignment with a school/college. Our members report a significant number of applications exceeding the 60-day service level target. Indeed, the NASUWT and the REC are being told of delays of up to 16 weeks/ 80 days.

Given this circumstance schools are being left even more under-resourced as employment businesses can't provide as many supply teachers as there is demand for. In some cases, supply teachers are instead accepting alternative employment and struggling to make ends meet.

We know you will be concerned by this and understand the impact being felt by schools, and pupils. The NASUWT and the REC would welcome a discussion with DBS and the DfE on the delays in processing enhanced DBS checks on supply teachers. We would like to help to get the process working better for everyone involved.

We have also copied this correspondence to the Secretary of State for Education.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Patrick Roach,
General Secretary
NASUWT



Neil Carberry,
Chief Executive
REC