

Transcript of part of the Tes Podcast published 2 November 2018

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This transcript is of part of the section discussing Amanda Spielman's letter to the Public Accounts Committee, published on 21 October. The letter can be accessed from the following page:

Amanda Spielman letter to the Public Accounts Committee - GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/amanda-spielman-letter-to-the-public-accounts-committee>

The podcast was published on the following page:

The Tes Podcast: The Budget, 'stuck schools' and wellbeing tips | Tes News

<https://www.tes.com/news/tes-podcast-budget-stuck-schools-and-wellbeing-tips>

The audio file can be downloaded from the following page:

The Tes Podcast: The Budget, 'stuck schools' and wellbeing tips

<https://tesnews.podbean.com/e/the-tes-podcast-the-budget-stuck-schools-and-wellbeing-tips>

The section where Spielman's letter is discussed starts around 5:20 in. The HE section starts at 7:54 and last for about 3 minutes.

The podcast is introduced by Martin George who welcomes Ed Dorrell, Will Hazell and Kate Parker. KP does not contribute to the discussion on home education. We have tried to identify the voices of the others from the introduction and when they are named in the recording, though this was not easy to do.

Timings are from the start of the clip, not the whole podcast. Text in grey does not concern home education. Words in square brackets are interjections from other participants.

Ed Dorrell

And another kind of example of her sticking her head above the parapet is she has sort of formally thrown Ofsted's weight behind the idea of creating a sort of compulsory register for home schooled children. And parents of home schooled children are quite a kind of vocal group. [Yeah.] And they, I think normally, kind of respond quite strongly to any suggestion that you know they're not properly looking after and educating their children so she could get some flak from them as well.

Will Hazell [0:36]

It's like the gun lobby in the States isn't it, go absolutely mental when you start going near...

Martin George

It hits a raw nerve doesn't it?

Will Hazell [0:43]

Even touching upon the idea you might do something about it they go apeshit - you forgive the French {unclear}. On the stuck school things though, I mean the thing that really struck me was, how frankly repetitive the language felt, I mean you and I were having a bit of a laugh about it really weren't we, you know.

Martin George [1:00]

It's the trade of children's futures - tick; national scandal - tick.

Will Hazell [1:04]

Bloody hell, they just pulled a load of old Ofsted clichés out of Michael Wilshaw's annual report and [Yeah, yeah] stuck them together.

Martin George [1:11]

I think back on the home education thing, I mean I think the context matters here because the DfE had a consultation a bit earlier this year about whether to have a compulsory registration of home educated children. It hasn't actually reported back on its findings yet, but the signals from DfE say that they haven't

made a decision yet, but they think the context would make it much easier to do it now than I think did Ed Balls suggest it 10 years ago?

Will Hazell

Yeah he did, yeah.

Martin George [1:39]

And I think the thinking at DfE is that there's - people knowing about radicalisation, unregistered schools, [off-rolling] off-rolling. All these things mean if DfE did want to press ahead with this, and maybe they do, they've got a better chance of succeeding now than before.

Will Hazell [1:54]

Yeah, I think they have although you know never ever underestimate the power of the home education lobby and the hold it has over, and I would say there's a huge overlap over the kind of right of the Tory party and the Brexiteers, you know the hard core Brexiteers are almost all head cases for home education.

Martin George [2:12]

And of course we've got a Conservative government without a majority that could, you know, would they even think about doing a thing that would lose a vote in the Commons on this?

Ed Dorrell [2:21]

I've seen lot people on Twitter who do think it's, it's coming, though actually it's an idea whose time's come. And I think that it will happen. {Unclear... unclear}

Martin George [2:37]

Shaking hands as we speak.

Ed Dorrell [2:39]

It's recorded for posterity as well.

Will Hazell [2:41]

Yeah, yeah, we'll see.

Martin George

Well, I hope you're right.

Will Hazell [2:44]

But it'll be a big, big fight if it happens isn't it.

Ed Dorrell

Yeah.

Will Hazell

Yeah.

This transcript was initially made available on The HE Byte linked to the post:

Home Educators Equated with the American Gun Lobby

<https://he-byte.uk/england/home-educators-equated-with-the-american-gun-lobby>