



# Bercow: Ten Years On



## Text of letter to MPs from I CAN & RCSLT

Name

House of Parliament

London SW1A 0AA

Date

Dear X

### ***Bercow: Ten Years On - an independent review of provision for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs in England***

Communication is our most important life skill, but many children and young people in your constituency will have difficulties communicating, impacting fundamentally on their learning, relationships, and life chances.

The current picture for these children and young people is not as good as it could be. We need to take action now to address this. If not, the more than 10% of children who have speech, language and communication needs, and the more than 50% of children in areas of social disadvantage who start school with delayed language and other identified communication needs, are all at risk of a worse future.

***Bercow: Ten Years On*** sets out what needs to be done. Published by I CAN, the children's communication charity, and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, it marks the 10th anniversary of the original Bercow Report.

We received evidence from over 2,500 people. We heard of outstanding practice in some places and of some real changes for the better since 2008. We also heard that not all children and young people are receiving the support that they and their families need. Without that support, children's mental health and wellbeing, educational attainment, social mobility, and employment prospects are at risk. Children are also at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system.

We believe that the practical recommendations we are making to Government, detailed in the enclosed summary document, will make a real difference to how your constituents are supported so they are able to achieve their potential both at school and throughout their lives.

Communication is everybody's business and we all have a part to play. We hope, therefore, that you are able to help us by expressing your support to the Prime Minister, and the Education and Health Secretaries, for the review's recommendations. A template letter and press release are available on XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Further information can be found on [www.bercow10yearson.com](http://www.bercow10yearson.com). If you have any queries, do please contact RCSLT's Public Affairs Adviser, Peter Just on [peter.just@rcslt.org](mailto:peter.just@rcslt.org). We look forward to working with you to help deliver a better future for your constituents.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Bob Reitemeier CBE  
Chief Executive, I CAN

Ms Kamini Gadhok CBE  
Chief Executive, RCSLT