

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE BY THE ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE AT LAW AND SAFETY COMMITTEE HEARING, 8 MAY 2018**

***Question:***

**Ms STEPH COOKE:** I return to the issue, once again, of suspensions. Long suspensions in schools—suspensions for 10 to 20 days—are usually for quite serious things, such as violence against other students or teachers. Could you provide some comment around how we find that balance between the needs of the child—in deciding whether or not to suspend them—and the needs of the rest of the school community, ensuring the safety of other students and teachers, and enabling the school to provide education to the vast majority of students with minimal disruption?

**Mr JOHNSON:** If a school is faced with such a circumstance the system should not have the solution to send that young person away from a supportive environment to be by themselves. We are quite happy to furnish the Committee with the Duke University study on how to deal with suspension situations.

***Answer:***

In response to the question taken on notice, the report that the Advocate referred to at page 32 is available at:

[https://law.duke.edu/childedlaw/schooldiscipline/downloads/instead\\_of\\_suspension.pdf](https://law.duke.edu/childedlaw/schooldiscipline/downloads/instead_of_suspension.pdf).