

SPSO decision report



Case: 201004920, HM Inspectorate of Education
Sector: Scottish Government and devolved administration
Subject: policy/administration
Outcome: no decision reached

Summary

Mr C was unhappy about a report prepared by an inspector from HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) for the Registrar of Independent Schools (the Registrar) and complained that HMIE unfairly refused to discuss the report with him. We found that the Registrar had asked HMIE to prepare the report so that he could respond to a complaint from Mr C's solicitor about an independent school. The HMIE report therefore was considered to be 'professional advice' to the Registrar and, in our view, Mr C's complaint lay firmly with the Registrar and not with HMIE. We found that Mr C was still in discussion with the Registrar about his original complaint, and told him that it was part of the Registrar's role to consider any complaints Mr C made about the HMIE report and respond to them. We pointed out to Mr C that the Registrar would only consider his complaints about the HMIE report if they were in connection with important evidence, relied upon by the Registrar, which he could provide evidence to show was incorrect. If he had new and relevant information that was not previously available, they would also consider that.