*About this resource:*

This is a Suggested wording. It is a set of paragraphs to use to provide information to the family on the option of requesting an SEN expert at the IRP.

To understand when you might want to use this text, read the [Step by Step Guide*:* After the Requesting an Independent Review Panel](https://justforkidslaw.org/school-exclusions-hub/legal-practitioners-and-professionals/after-governors-meeting-appeal-and-3/deciding-whether-appeal-and-making-request-irp/step-step-guide-requesting-independent-review-panel).

To use this resource, go through the text and enter the information where prompted to do so. Prompts appear as grey text. Then copy and paste your finished text into a letter or email.

This text is a guide. You might need to make amendments to fit your circumstances.

I am writing to provide you with some information about name of young person’s exclusion from name of school.

You have indicated that you would like to request an independent review panel to look at the governors’ decision to uphold the exclusion.

You have the right to request that the school pay for an SEN expert to attend the panel. The SEN expert must be independent and can provide information on appropriate SEN provision and on name of young person’s needs in school.

However, the SEN expert will not assess name of young person in advance and may not have seen their file. They will not comment on what the school should have done in this matter, instead only speaking generally. This means that there is a risk that the expert will damage name of young person’s case rather than support it.

It would be better to identify a medical or education professional who is working with name of young person already who might be able to provide a statement. This will have more force if the person knows name of young person and understands their needs.

If you can think of someone who might be able to help, please let me have their contact details so that I can approach them to either attend the independent review panel, or to provide a statement. Alternatively, please let me know if you would like to request an SEN expert to attend the panel instead.