# Sister of Ruth Perry criticises peerage nomination for former Ofsted chief Amanda Spielman



The sister of Ruth Perry, a headteacher who tragically took her own life following an unfavourable Ofsted inspection, has expressed deep discontent regarding reports that former Ofsted chief Amanda Spielman may receive a seat in the House of Lords. Professor Julia Waters, speaking on behalf of her family, deemed the potential nomination an "insult" to her sister's memory.

Ruth Perry, who led Caversham Primary School in Reading, Berkshire, suffered from the repercussions of a school inspection in 2023 that downgraded her institution from its highest rating to the lowest due to concerns regarding safeguarding. An inquest into Perry's death concluded that the pressures from the inspection played a significant role in her tragic decision to end her life. Additionally, an independent review published in 2024 revealed that Ofsted’s response to Perry’s death exhibited a "defensive and complacent" attitude.

Amanda Spielman, who held the position of chief inspector from 2017 to 2023, is reported to have been nominated for a peerage by Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch. Julia Waters lamented that Spielman's tenure "is indelibly associated" with the circumstances surrounding her sister's death. She further noted, "Through her response to Ruth's death and the subsequent inquest and inquiries while head of Ofsted, Amanda Spielman showed herself to be lacking in many of the qualities that you would hope would be needed in Parliament."

Waters articulated concerns over Spielman’s leadership, stating she demonstrated "poor leadership and judgement, a lack of empathy and understanding of the issues, and a tendency to deflect any criticism onto others." She labelled Spielman’s reported nomination as "a disgrace and an insult to my sister's memory," stressing that a record of this nature should not warrant a reward in the esteemed ranks of the House of Lords.

In a related development, Amanda Spielman has recently made headlines for publicly criticising Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson and the proposed Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. Spielman expressed her belief that the Bill could negatively impact education in England and implied that Phillipson was unduly swayed by school unions. In response, a Government spokesperson advised Spielman to "spend less time criticising the reforms this Government is bringing, and more time reflecting on her failure at Ofsted.”

The Conservative party has refrained from commenting on the specifics of Spielman’s peerage nomination, emphasising their policy of not addressing speculation or purported leaks regarding honours or dignities.

As this situation continues to unfold, it highlights the complex intersection of education policy, mental health, and accountability within the UK’s educational framework.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Ruth_Perry> - This URL corroborates the information regarding Ruth Perry's death following an Ofsted inspection and its aftermath, including the coroner's findings and the responses from Ofsted and educational unions.
* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/ruth-perry-inquest-ofsted-alan-derry-report-b2460018.html> - This URL supports details about Ruth Perry's anguish and the coroner's conclusions regarding the impact of the Ofsted inspection on her mental health.
* <https://www.hilldickinson.com/insights/articles/ruth-perry-inquest-inquest-prompts-further-reforms-ofsted> - This URL provides additional context on the inquest's findings and Ofsted's response to improve future inspections and reduce pressure on school leaders.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-chief-inspector-amanda-spielman-to-step-down> - Although not directly mentioned in the search results, this URL generally supports Amanda Spielman's role and tenure as the Ofsted chief inspector from 2017 to 2023.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education> - This general BBC education news page may cover stories related to Ofsted, education reforms, and the impact of inspections on educators, though it is not specific to the article's claims.