# Backlash against Speaker over judicial review on VAT for private school fees



The Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, is facing severe backlash for his apparent undermining of the crucial judicial review regarding value-added tax (VAT) on private school fees. This controversy has only deepened following what many are calling a "barely veiled" government intervention to challenge key evidence that could expose the flaws in their education policies.

An emergency hearing set for Monday will decide on the admissibility of a National Audit Office (NAO) report, which paints a grim picture of a "broken" special educational needs (SEN) system. Sir Lindsay Hoyle's questionable actions have raised alarm bells, especially among parents who have relied on this report as a critical tool in their pursuit of justice for children with SEN. The Independent Schools Council also depended on it during the initial phases of this pivotal case.

The costs of the impending hearing will be footed by taxpayers and could easily reach into the tens of thousands of pounds—this adds to the already staggering bills from a three-day judicial review, one of the most significant cases seen in the High Court's administrative division. All involved parties, including the lavishly resourced government's legal team of four King's Counsel, are being summoned back to court. Notably, Sir Lindsay is also securing his own high-profile representation, which casts further doubts on his impartiality.

The NAO report has documented the difficulties faced by SEN children, particularly those losing access to private education, in obtaining the necessary support in the state sector. Parents opposing the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, who has introduced this contentious new tax, argue that it deprives their children of proper educational opportunities. It's hard not to see this policy as yet another example of government overreach that will harm the most vulnerable in society.

Chancellor Reeves seems to revel in derision against private school families, labeling them "snobs" while she blindly supports an unjust tax that could significantly impact hundreds of thousands of students who deserve access to quality education, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Debate heated up when Sir Lindsay questioned if the findings of the NAO report might be utilized by parents of SEN children. An insider revealed that the initial phase of the hearings saw no opposition to the admissibility of the NAO report, but objections mysteriously arose from the government at the last minute, casting their intentions into doubt and suggesting a rather desperate attempt to silence criticism.

Furthermore, this scenario risks denying families access to vital, publicly available data previously acknowledged by the very Government that now seeks to exclude it. The NAO report has documented numerous shortcomings in the SEN system—failures consistently recognized by various ministers who have repeatedly promised necessary reforms.

Highlighting the importance of the NAO report, James Gardner of SinclairsLaw, representing the claimant group, questioned why the Government is initiative to sideline this crucial evidence. "The NAO report serves as a vital document—revealing the funding crisis denying our most vulnerable pupils the education they deserve. What is the Government hiding? Are they opposed to giving SEN children the justice they rightfully deserve?"

Meanwhile, as reported by the Mail on Sunday, the Chancellor has assembled an elite barrister team to combat the claims of parents who are resorting to crowdfunding to fight against this unfair tax.

With the original judgment in this judicial review expected soon, this emergency hearing has injected uncertainty into the entire legal process. The implications for the future of VAT on private school fees are profound, affecting around 550,000 pupils in independent schools, 100,000 of whom have special educational needs—a demographic that absolutely cannot afford to be neglected by an increasingly detached government.

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

## References

* <https://www.nationalworld.com/news/politics/what-did-lindsay-hoyle-do-4529591> - Discusses controversies involving Sir Lindsay Hoyle, but does not cover the specific issue of VAT on private school fees or the judicial review mentioned.
* <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/speaker-lindsay-hoyle-ex-lobbyist-commons-pass-access-to-top-politicians> - Reports on another controversy surrounding Sir Lindsay Hoyle, but not related to VAT or SEN issues.
* <https://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/news/parliament-matters-podcast-e21> - Provides insights into issues faced by the Speaker of the House of Commons but does not specifically address the VAT or SEN judicial review.
* <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - Outlines the rules of court for the Supreme Court of Virginia, which are not relevant to the specific UK legal issues mentioned.
* <https://www.mass.gov/guide-to-evidence/article-xi-miscellaneous> - Pertains to Massachusetts legal proceedings and does not relate to the UK judicial review or VAT on private school fees.