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## Ananova :

### Call for access to sex offenders' register rejected

The Government has rejected calls to allow public access to the sex offenders' register.

It has also been stressed that paedophile clinics can not be kept away from schools.

Ministers concluded that giving parents access to the register would not help protect children from paedophiles.

In a Westminster Hall debate on the relocation of a clinic to house convicted paedophiles, Beverley Hughes said parents would have to face up to the fact that these centres could not be sited away from schools.

The junior Home Office minister's comments came as the parents of murdered schoolgirl Sarah Payne met David Blunkett to put the case for giving parents "controlled access" to the register.

Ms Hughes told MPs: "There has been a lot of debate about how we can better protect children, whether public access to the sex offender register for example is something that would help, and we have concluded that it would not.

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"Child protection is best served by the police and others knowing where sex offenders are, by keeping them under supervision and providing treatment to reduce the risk of further offending."

Story filed: 14:15 Tuesday 18th December 2001

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