

The Rt Hon Justine Greening MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Building  
Great Smith Street  
Westminster, London  
SW1P 3BT

Our ref: NA6845.OT

27 March 2017

Dear Justine

### **Re Education Funding Formula**

Following our meeting most recently, I write to you again regarding the issue of the Education Funding Formula. I have attached to this correspondence previous correspondence to which I have yet to receive a response.

I have to say that I have been lobbied on this specific issue more than any other issue that I can remember. Whilst I have received a large body of correspondence and personal approaches from many professionals affected by this issue, I have also received a very large amount of correspondence from extremely concerned and angry parents. Many of my constituents have written to me simply because they are so worried about this issue.

I am most concerned that implementation of the formula as it currently stands does not correlate with our manifesto promise made in 2015. The manifesto was quite clear in that it stated;

*"..And we will make schools funding fairer "*

I have little doubt that very serious consideration and thought have been put into the issue, with the aim of creating a fairer funding formula for all, however I cannot accept that the formula as it currently stands achieves those aims. My previous correspondence clearly demonstrates why the formula is not fair to areas and constituencies such as mine. Indeed, you have now received approached from professional organisations across 14 separate areas giving demonstrable evidence to support the flaws in the current proposals. Their main areas of concern have been clearly outlined to you, but I feel they need to be reiterated to ensure these concerns are heard;

- The new National Funding Formula is not new. It is based on a flawed and outdated model

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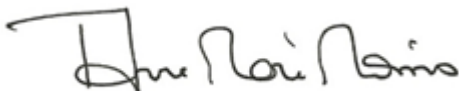
- As a consequence, considerable and completely unacceptable inequalities will persist in our school funding arrangement
- The new National Funding Formula attempts to ignore inflationary cost pressures that all schools are enduring
- The Department for Education does not know what the minimum funding required for an individual pupil is and how this relates to minimum school funding for a school to adequately resource staffing and equipment
- The assumption that schools all have 'further efficiencies' to make is fundamentally flawed, especially for those schools that have been severely low funded for an extended period of time
- One must also consider the impact the Apprenticeship Levy will have on many schools
- Concerns still remain in relation to the diversion of significant educational funds to Grammar and Free Schools

Whilst it can be appreciated that we are all facing difficult decisions and challenging financial times, our education provision must be protected and we must make good our promise as set out in the 2015 manifesto.

What is being sought is simply that every child, regardless of which educational establishment they attend should be given the opportunity to receive the very best education that they can. This is one of the most important issues in raising our families in the communities we share.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Anne Marie Morris MP  
Newton Abbot

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