



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Nick Gibb MP  
Minister of State for Schools  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Mak".

25 January 2017

I am writing with deep concern about the possible implications for schools in my constituency of the proposed changes, in their current form, to the National Funding Formula (NFF).

I would like to make clear at the outset that I am strongly supportive of the Government's overall ambition of delivering a fairer funding system that reflects the genuine needs of pupils and schools, and ends the postcode lottery we inherited from Labour. As you rightly noted in the House of Commons earlier today, this is important work that previous Governments have assiduously avoided.

I also recognise that the Government's consultation has only recently opened, and that the Department for Education is still listening to both consultation responses and the concerns raised by Members of Parliament. However, the indicative figures available at this stage suggest the potential for a serious and detrimental impact on my Havant constituency.

While the Local Authority as a whole gains a projected £4.5m under the new NFF proposals, movement of funding *between* schools in Hampshire reveals concerning detail. According to figures provided by Hampshire County Council yesterday (which I have enclosed for your consideration), when the proposed NFF is applied to 2016/17 budgets, the Havant constituency will lose £1.1m, 28 out of 36 schools receiving a net loss of funding.

It is worth noting that Havant contains pockets of significant deprivation, particularly in the Leigh Park area, with several schools rated as "requires improvement" in their latest Ofsted report, some of which appear to be significant net losers under changes to the NFF.

As you know, I have made a concerted effort since my election to support schools in Havant, helping them to improve communication and share best practice within the constituency, and fostering a spirit of constructive engagement with the Government's programme of school reform.



This has included visiting almost every school in the constituency, many of them on several occasions, and founding the Havant Education Leaders' Forum to engage directly with local Headteachers – the series of termly meetings which you kindly visited Havant to speak at last year. It is therefore disappointing to see that many of these schools are at risk of losing funding under the new formula.

The reason for these changes appears to stem from the way deprivation is assessed in the proposed NFF, with the end result being that within Hampshire funding will flow from some of the more deprived areas, like Leigh Park in my constituency, to some of the more affluent areas in the County, and I can only assume this is an unintended consequence of the NFF.

As you may be aware, the Local Authority believes that the Department for Education needs to do further modelling on the basic amounts schools need to function properly and the per-pupil funding rates (as a percentage of overall allocations).

With all of the above in mind, I would very much like to meet with you to discuss these matters further, and would be grateful if your office could contact mine to arrange this as soon as possible. I am aware that Caroline Dinenage MP has also written to you regarding her Gosport constituency, also a net loser when the NFF is applied in Hampshire, and I would be happy to combine these into a single meeting.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Mak', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**Alan Mak MP**