



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

28 February 2017

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**Consultation on the Proposed Schools National Funding Formula – Havant's Schools**

I am writing with deep concern about the possible implications for schools in my constituency of the proposed National Funding Formula (NFF), in its current, draft form, which is open for public consultation until 22 March 2017.

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 the Minister of State for Schools, The Rt. Hon. Nick Gibb MP, noted in the House of Commons, this is important work that previous Governments have assiduously avoided.

Moreover, I am firmly of the belief that we must balance the nation's books and live within our means. Only by reducing the deficit, and returning the national finances to a stable and fiscally responsible position, can we hope to safeguard the future of our economy, and make the investments in education that future generations deserve. I am therefore mindful of the current pressures facing the Treasury and the Government as a whole.

I also recognise that the Government's consultation on the NFF 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, draft figures available at this stage, whilst the consultation is still open and no final decisions have been made, suggest the potential for a detrimental impact on schools in my Havant constituency.

While the county of Hampshire 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, (which I have enclosed for your consideration), when the proposed NFF is applied to 2016/17 budgets, the Havant constituency will lose £1.1m with 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 net losers under the draft 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. It is therefore disappointing to see that many of these schools appear to be at risk of losing funding under the new formula, in its current proposed form.

The reason for these possible funding changes appears to stem from the way deprivation is assessed (and funded) in the proposed NFF, with the 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. Hampshire County Council also 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), and ensure that they (Hampshire County Council) as the local education authority retain some role in distributing funds locally to target pupils and schools in areas of deprivation.

I am aware that concerns have also been raised by other Members of Parliament, some of whom may also face similar reductions in school funding in their own constituencies. With that in mind, I would be grateful if you, and your officials in the Treasury, would consider the issues raised herein as you prepare for the Spring Budget 2017.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Mak', written in a cursive style.

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**Alan Mak MP**