



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

Dear Secretary of State,

18 March 2017

Schools National Funding Formula Stage 2 Consultation Response – Havant's Schools

Further to my two meetings with you in the House of Commons, and with the Minister of State for Schools, and officials in the Department for Education, I am writing in response to the consultation on the proposed National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools, and to express my deep concern about the possible implications for schools in my constituency of the NFF as it currently stands.

I would like to make clear at the outset that I am strongly supportive of the Government's overall ambition to deliver a fairer funding system, one 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 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 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 Department for Education and Government more widely.

I also recognise that your Department is listening to both consultation responses, and concerns raised by Members of Parliament before finalising the NFF, and I am supportive of the Government's wider programme of school reforms. However, the indicative figures available at this stage suggest the potential for a detrimental impact on schools in my Havant constituency.

Impact of current draft proposals on Hampshire and the Havant parliamentary constituency

While the county of Hampshire as a whole gains a projected £4.5m under the current NFF proposals, movement of funding between schools in Hampshire reveals concerning detail. According to figures provided by Hampshire County Council (HCC), which I have enclosed below for your consideration



(Appendix 1), 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. Havant could potentially lose more than any other constituency in Hampshire.

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 reports, some of which appear to be net losers under changes to the NFF. You will also note that Park Community School in Leigh Park is projected to lose £165,000 under the draft proposals, which is a much greater change than schools in other parts of the Havant constituency, despite serving the most deprived area.

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 secondary headteachers and college principals. It is therefore disappointing to see that many of these schools are at risk of losing funding under the proposed NFF.

Measurement of deprivation under the new NFF proposals

One reason for this loss of funding appears to stem from the way deprivation is assessed (and funded) 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, HCC modelled various options of how to treat deprivation when they set up the “Hampshire Formula” within the current National Funding Framework in 2013. I understand that HCC officials and local headteachers closely considered the optimal solution for Hampshire’s economic geography, and eventually chose to use the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measure of deprivation.

HCC remains firmly of the opinion that IDACI offers the best distribution of deprivation funding to meet local needs, as it recognises deprivation within sub-ward parcels and is good at picking up area-wide deprivation issues. In contrast, HCC feel that the introduction and possible over-reliance on Free School Meals (FSM), as a measure of deprivation, may be causing individual FSM children in areas of relative affluence (which would not score highly under IDACI) to skew the county-wide distribution of deprivation funding, particularly in the Havant constituency.

It appears that the end result of these changes is to move funding out of areas of greatest deprivation, like the Havant constituency, into more affluent areas.



While it may seem counter-intuitive that FSM is an unhelpful measure of deprivation, the figures presented by HCC using the draft NFF proposals leave me no choice but to agree with HCC in this case.

It therefore seems reasonable that your Department keep this issue under review as you consider the consultation responses, and consider returning a portion of deprivation funding to HCC and other Local Education Authorities to distribute according to locally assessed needs and priorities. This would allow the Government to use per-pupil national distribution to correct the historic unfairness in school funding, while remaining sensitive to local assessments of deprivation, and other unique characteristics that are often best understood at a local level. This would enable the new NFF to strike the right balance between national and local priorities, and retain HCC's flexibility to target some funding to where it is needed most in Hampshire, such as the Havant constituency.

HCC 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). I know that some of the smaller primary schools in my constituency are concerned that the Government needs to do more work to assess minimum viability for small schools.

I would therefore greatly appreciate it if you would take the aforementioned issues into consideration as you and your officials evaluate the NFF Stage 2 consultation, particularly the possibility of retaining some measure of local influence over the distribution of deprivation funding. Please consider this letter my formal response to the schools National Funding Formula Stage 2 consultation.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with a formal response to my submission – and the specific points raised herein – in due course, which I can share with interested parties.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

Alan Mak MP



APPENDIX 1
INDICATIVE DRAFT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR HAVANT BASED ON 2016/17 BUDGETS

Table showing gain or loss by school in the Havant constituency

Schools in Havant	Gainers			Losers			Total No of Schools	Net Gain/Loss	% of Net Gain/Loss
	No. of Schools	Gain	% of Total Gain	No. of Schools	Loss	% of Total Loss			
Barncroft Primary School			0%	1	£55,000	5%	1	£55,000	5%
Bidbury Infant School			0%	1	£21,000	2%	1	£21,000	2%
Bidbury Junior School			0%	1	£24,000	2%	1	£24,000	2%
Bosmere Junior School			0%	1	£37,000	3%	1	£37,000	3%
Crookhorn College			0%	1	£57,000	5%	1	£57,000	5%
Emsworth Primary School	1	£10,000	10%			0%	1	£10,000	-1%
Fairfield Infant School			0%	1	£25,000	2%	1	£25,000	2%
Front Lawn Primary Academy			0%	1	£54,000	4%	1	£54,000	5%
Havant Academy			0%	1	£64,000	5%	1	£64,000	6%
Mengham Infant School			0%	1	£17,000	1%	1	£17,000	2%
Mengham Junior School			0%	1	£2,000	0%	1	£2,000	0%
Mill Hill Primary School			0%	1	£18,000	1%	1	£18,000	2%
Mill Rythe Infant School			0%	1	£23,000	2%	1	£23,000	2%
Mill Rythe Junior School	1	£25,000	24%			0%	1	£25,000	-2%
Morelands Primary School			0%	1	£36,000	3%	1	£36,000	3%
Oaklands Catholic School			0%	1	£161,000	13%	1	£161,000	14%
Park Community School			0%	1	£165,000	14%	1	£165,000	15%
Purbrook Infant School			0%	1	£3,000	0%	1	£3,000	0%
Purbrook Junior School	1	£12,000	11%			0%	1	£12,000	-1%
Purbrook Park School	1	£33,000	31%			0%	1	£33,000	-3%
Riders Infant School			0%	1	£34,000	3%	1	£34,000	3%
Riders Junior School			0%	1	£33,000	3%	1	£33,000	3%
Sharps Copse Primary and Nursery School			0%	1	£43,000	4%	1	£43,000	4%
Springwood Infant School			0%	1	£17,000	1%	1	£17,000	2%
Springwood Junior School			0%	1	£21,000	2%	1	£21,000	2%
St Alban's Church of England Aided Primary School			0%	1	£23,000	2%	1	£23,000	2%
St James Church of England Controlled Primary School	1	£19,000	18%			0%	1	£19,000	-2%
St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Waterlooville			0%	1	£30,000	2%	1	£30,000	3%
St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Havant			0%	1	£34,000	3%	1	£34,000	3%
The Hayling College	1	£6,000	6%			0%	1	£6,000	-1%
Trosnant Infant School			0%	1	£28,000	2%	1	£28,000	3%
Trosnant Junior School and BESD Unit			0%	1	£30,000	2%	1	£30,000	3%
Warblington School			0%	1	£104,000	9%	1	£104,000	9%
Warren Park Primary School			0%	1	£60,000	5%	1	£60,000	5%
Grand Total	6	£105,000	100%	28	£1,219,000	100%	34	£1,114,000	100%

Source: Hampshire County Council analysis of draft NFF figures.