



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

21 March 2017

Dear Secretary of State

APPG for London - National Funding Formula consultation response

Ahead of the closing of the consultation on the National Funding Formula (NFF), we wished to raise the concerns of the APPG for London and the impact the proposed formula will have on schools across the city.

London has some of the best schools in the country, with 94 per cent achieving good or outstanding status from Ofsted. As you will be well aware, this has been achieved through the sustained support and hard work from Government and teaching staff over the course of many years as well as adequate levels of funding.

The APPG for London raised serious concerns with the initial National Funding Formula proposed in March 2016. Whilst we recognise that there have been welcome changes by the Government to this formula, with the introduction of the 3% cap on overall reductions to schools and additional £200m per year, we remain concerned with the impact the proposed changes will have on school standards across London.

It was clear from a recent APPG meeting that there is widespread concern about the proposals from London's MPs. The APPG was left with a clear message from schools and the business sector that a NFF based on redistribution, as is currently proposed, would have a detrimental impact on London's pupils, schools and local communities.

With 70 per cent of schools in London set to receive cuts to funding resulting from the national funding formula at the same time as they are grappling with considerable additional cost burdens, it seems inevitable that the quality of education in the city will suffer. The National Audit Office has identified that all schools are facing additional unfunded cost pressures that amount to an effective 8 per cent cut by 2019/20. London Councils has found that the proposed NFF, combined with the findings of the National Audit Office, will result in London's schools losing £360m by 2018/19 alone.

London's schools are facing considerable challenges in the years ahead, and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss these with you. In the meantime, we trust you will take into consideration the concerns of the APPG for London.

Yours sincerely

Bob Neill MP
Co-Chair, APPG for London

Steve Reed OBE MP
Co-Chair, APPG for London