



Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP
Secretary of State

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Neil Carmichael MP
Chair, Education Select Committee
House of Commons
LONDON
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Dear Neil

I write following my evidence to your Committee on 9 September, and with specific reference to my commitment to making school funding fairer. It is clearly unfair that a school in one part of the country can attract over 50% more funding than an identical school elsewhere.

Your Committee asked about the likely launch date of a consultation on this important subject. My department is, at present, engaging with Her Majesty's Treasury on the Spending Review, and so I am not able to make any announcements about our plans in this area at the moment. I do, of course, recognise that schools funding is a complex issue, and that it is vital that we consult the sector and the public on proposals to make funding fairer before implementation. I warmly welcome your Committee's direct input, and strongly encourage any activity that brings further public attention to this important issue. Whilst I cannot yet give a date for a consultation, I would suggest that your Committee may wish to think about looking in detail at this issue early in the New Year, once the Spending Review is complete and the Chancellor has set out the total funding envelope for the coming years.

Your Committee also asked about post-16 funding. Decisions about how 16-19 institutions will be funded in 2016/17 and beyond will also be subject to the outcome of the Spending Review. It is important, however, to note that my department has already published a national funding formula for 16-19, introduced in 2013/14. I do not want to disrupt the 16-19 sector unnecessarily by making further changes to the formula. As my department develops proposals for fairer funding for schools, I will make sure that the fit with the existing 16-19 formula is properly considered. The need to tackle the deep unfairness within 5-16 school funding, however, does not exist in 16-19 funding.

May I take this opportunity to thank you and your Committee for your ongoing engagement with this important topic.

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