



Right Honourable Justine Greening MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London, SW1P 3BT

10 August 2016

**Copy to:**

Nick Gibb MP  
Minister of State for School Standards

Dear Secretary of State,

**Urgent Need for an Uplift in Funding for the Poorest Funded Schools**

I contacted you recently (15 July) to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of Secretary of State for Education and to express the hope that you would make rapid progress on implementing a new national fair funding formula for schools. I received your reply on 26 July.

Soon after that correspondence you made the announcement that the process of implementing fairer funding was to be delayed by a further year, with 2018-19 now being the target date for implementation. I have publicly welcomed your personal commitment to a new funding formula but I and all f40 member authorities are extremely disappointed that there will be further delay, with implementation a year later than promised.

It is six years since the government's 2010 White Paper formally acknowledged that school funding was unfairly allocated and that a change would be made. We genuinely believed that the argument had been won and that the end was in sight for the existing arbitrary and unfair system that has disadvantaged hundreds of thousands of children for too many years.

The delay means the poorest funded schools having to cope with the current cost pressures without any relief from a fairer funding formula, after being promised that this was the year funding would improve. Not surprisingly, those schools will feel cheated as they were anticipating a funding lift in 2017-18. They will now need to take urgent action to find ways of managing with insufficient funding for a further year. The likelihood of redundancies is high and with pay awards and changes to NI in the current year schools are already absorbing increased costs of at least 4%-5%. Further increases in costs set against a best case scenario of flat cash will continue to increase the pressure on schools in the lower funded authorities.

The problems are so acute that I would like you to consider taking some immediate action to deliver a funding uplift for the poorest funded authorities (and their schools) in 2017-18. In his last Autumn statement, the then Chancellor stated that a further £500million was to be made available for fair funding to be introduced. Would it be possible for any of this to be used as an interim payment for the next financial year to alleviate the problems outlined in this letter?

This tactic was used by the government in 2016-17 when an extra £390million was made available to a range of local authorities. That cash, which was offered as a first step towards fairer funding, is now baselined in the schools budget and has been a tremendous help. But now that there is delay in reaching the final goal, a further additional allocation of funds is urgently required to ease the difficulties being faced.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ivan Ould". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Ivan Ould, Chair of f40  
(ivan.ould@leics.gov.uk)

The Secretary, f40 Group, C/o DTW, Bank Chambers, Market Place, GUISBOROUGH, TS14 6BN (doug@dtw.co.uk)