



Tristram Hunt MP  
Shadow Secretary of State for Education  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

23 January 2013

Dear Shadow Secretary

**F40 campaign for fair funding**

I am writing to thank you for agreeing to meet me and my colleagues from f40 last Tuesday (21 January). We appreciate that you are extremely busy and it was kind of you to be so generous with your time. I have written separately to Nic Dakin to thank him for setting up the meeting with you.

I am attaching a note of the meeting prepared by f40's Secretary Doug Allan. I hope you agree that this presents an accurate record of our conversation.

These are very difficult times for education and school funding but we came away from the meeting feeling certain that you have the best interests of the poorest funded schools and pupils at heart and that you understand how unfair funding over nearly two decades has been detrimental to school children in local authority areas represented by f40.

For the future f40 is pinning its hopes on a new National Funding Formula which will bring to an end the funding inequality that has existed for too many years. As you now know, we have worked closely with the Coalition Government on the development of a new formula and presented our proposals to aid the debate. A copy of our paper "Towards a National Funding Formula for Schools" is also attached.

We had anticipated that the government would have launched a consultation on a revised formula last December but this was delayed, we understand, because of inter-departmental wrangles. We are still very hopeful that this consultation will be launched within weeks. Beyond that and, of course, dependent on exactly what the consultation contains and the final results, we would like to see the new, fairer formula in place for the financial year 2015-16.


It is far from certain who will be in government at this time but we fervently hope that, whichever party is in power, it will follow through on implementation of a new formula. We would like to see a clear policy statement in the Labour Party's next election manifesto along the lines of the paper we left with you at the meeting. An electronic copy of which is attached to this letter.

Naturally, f40 would welcome the opportunity to meet with you from time to time to discuss school funding and associated issues. If that would also suit you, please let me know so that f40's Secretary can arrange to have some dates put in our diaries.

For your information, f40 will be sending a letter to David Blunkett, who we understand is undertaking some work relating to education on behalf of the Labour Party. We will be providing some thoughts on how local government can fulfil its statutory role of holding all schools to account for quality with so many now contracted to central government.

Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely

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

Ivan Ould  
Chair of f40

Attachments:

1. Notes of the f40's meeting with the Shadow Secretary of State, 21 January 2014
2. F40's paper "Towards a National Funding Formula for Schools", September 2013
3. F40's Manifesto for a National School Funding Formula.