Department for Education

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Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter, the below sets out the answers to your questions.

Earlier this year the Department published the ad-hoc statistical notice "*Academy transfers and funding"* which covered information on the number and cost of academy transfers (sometimes called re-brokerages) for each financial year from 2013/14 to 2016/17. Going forward, we will be publishing this data on an annual basis. We have used this published data to provide responses to your first three questions.

The ad-hoc statistical note and accompanying data can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-trust-transfers-and-grant-funding

How many academies have been re-brokered since the beginning of 2017?

In 2016/17, 165 of the 6,518 open academies (as of 1st March 2017) were transferred to another trust, accounting for 2.5 per cent of all academies within England. Transfers occur for a range of reasons and not all of these are due to intervention for poor performance. 81 of the 165 academies that were transferred involved a Single Academy Trust (SAT) moving into a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). This means that around half of transfers that have taken place in this period involved consolidating the wider MAT market and taking robust action where a SAT was struggling to stand by itself.

What is the cost of re-brokering these academies into new trusts?

In 2016/17, 59 of the 165 academies that were transferred had grant funding provided, which incurred a total cost of £6.3 million. This is an average payment of around £107,000 for the 59 schools that received funding, and an average of around £38,000 for all 165 schools that transferred trusts during this period.

How many schools have been re-brokered more than once since 2010?

Data on trust transfers has only been routinely collected within the Department from 2013/14 onwards. Our data shows that only the following two schools have been re-brokered twice up until the end of 2016/17:

1. **Crawshaw Academy:** This academy left Crawshaw Academy Trust, a SAT, in order to join Interserve Academies Trust Limited trust on 1st September 2014. The academy then left this trust to join Red Kite Learning Trust on 1st March 2017.

2. **Wigan UTC:** This academy left Wigan UTC trust, a SAT, to join Bright Futures Educational Trust on 1st March 2015. The academy then left this trust to join Northern Schools Trust on 1st February 2017.

Information relating to your final two questions on academies awaiting a sponsor is sourced from our "*Open academies and academy projects in development*" management information report. This includes information on all academies within our sponsor pipeline and if they have been attached to a sponsor.

This data can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development

How many maintained schools were issued with Academy Orders since 2015, and have been waiting for a sponsor for (i) more than 6 months (ii) more than 12 months and (iii) still have no sponsor?

We have a strong track record of delivering significant number of sponsors in the past. As of October 2017 we have approved 1,079 sponsors and there are now 1,973 open sponsored academies, over 600 of these have opened since the beginning of 2015. Responsibility for creating sufficient sponsor capacity and matching sponsors with schools appropriately is for the RSC. They are in the best position to understand and respond to the challenges and opportunities in their local areas.

Of the local authority maintained schools that were given an Academy Order between January 2015 and October 2017, 248 are in the pipeline and have not yet opened as an academy. Of these schools, 143 have an agreed sponsor, with the remaining 105 yet to have one.

Breakdowns of how long these 105 schools have been waiting for an agreed sponsor can be found below:

I. 47 schools (45% of total) - 6 months or less

II. 25 schools (24% of total) - between 6 and 12 months

III. 33 schools (31% of total) - more than 12 months. A great deal of progress has been made on these cases even though they often combine some of the most difficult to address barriers, such as complex PFI contract or land issues.

What is the geographic spread of schools which are waiting for a sponsor?

The table overleaf sets out the region in which each of the 105 schools who are awaiting a sponsor are based.

No. of schools in the sponsor pipeline that have not yet been assigned an approved sponsor, by length of time since given an Academy Order, by RSC region, January 2015 to October 2017.

Regional School Commissioner Region	Less than 6 months	6-12 months	More than 12 months	Total unsponsored
East Midlands and Humber	5	1	0	**6**
East of England and North East London	3	0	1	**4**
Lancashire and West Yorkshire	12	13	13	**38**
North	6	2	4	**12**
North West London and South Central	8	3	4	**15**
South East and South London	2	0	5	**7**
South West	4	2	2	**8**
West Midlands	7	4	4	**15**
Total	**47**	**25**	**33**	**105**

Source: Open academies and academy projects in development management information

Yours sincerely,

Sir David Carter
National Schools Commissioner