



Sam Gyimah MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Childcare and Education

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Neil Carmichael MP
Chairman
Education Select Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 1AA

Dear Neil,

EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE HEARING ON FUNDING REFORM

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence to the Committee on the Government's plans for reforming education funding.

In our manifesto, we committed to introducing National Funding Formulae, so that for the first time the distribution of over £43bn of education funding is fair across the country and linked to children's needs. The first step in this historic reform was the consultation we launched in March, which set out the principles of reform and the factors we proposed to use in our formulae for schools and high needs funding.

We were clear at the time that this was the first stage of our funding reform consultation process. We said that there would be a second stage of consultation later in the year, which would seek views on the weightings of the factors and set out full illustrations of the impacts of the funding formulae across schools and local authorities. We also made clear that there would be a parallel consultation on our proposals for a national funding formula for early years funding later in the year.

Our first stage consultation closed on 17 April and I am pleased to say that we received an unprecedented response. More than 6,000 individuals and organisations responded to our proposals across both schools and high needs, expressing a wide range of views. As I am sure you can appreciate, analysing and considering this number of responses has been a significant task. I am therefore unfortunately not yet in a position to confirm the outcome to our first stage consultation or how this will influence our proposals in the second stage.

Of course, you would not want me pre-empt a statement to Parliament on the second stage of consultation. And as such, I will not be in a position to discuss the proposals for the consultation in a public session of the Committee on 6th July. However, I would be very happy to give you and members of the

Committee a private briefing on our latest policy thinking on that date. I will naturally be glad to come back and discuss our detailed proposals in a public session later in the year, once the second stage consultation has been published.

Please do let me know if you and Committee colleagues would find a private briefing session helpful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Gyimah', written in a cursive style.

Sam Gyimah MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Childcare and Education