



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Secretary of State

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Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Chair of the Education Committee
House of Commons
London
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9 May 2018

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter following up areas of questioning from my accountability hearing with the Education Select Committee on 21 March. I would firstly like to thank you for the opportunity to discuss a range of important issues and for the Committee's input on these matters.

You asked for clarification on how the Review of Post-18 Education and Funding will inform my department's preparations for the next spending review, particularly with regard to further education. The Spending Review 2019 will provide an opportunity to set budgets and fund government priorities across the whole DfE remit from 2020-21 onwards. The Department's preparation for the Spending Review will include consideration of any recommendations from the Review of Post-18 Education and Funding.

I thought it might be helpful to provide an update on the review more broadly. The Review of Post-18 Education and Funding is looking at how we can provide a joined up system that is accessible to all and provides value for money for both students and taxpayers. The review will receive input from an expert independent panel who are currently undertaking an extensive programme of engagement with stakeholders, including students and recent graduates to inform its work. As part of this, a call for evidence inviting interested individuals and organisations to submit feedback launched on 21 March and closed on 2 May. The panel will publish their report at an interim stage, before the government concludes the overall review in early 2019. At this point, we will fully consider the evidence and recommendations and respond accordingly. It would be inappropriate to speculate on likely conclusions at this stage.

Thank you again for your interest in this important subject and I look forward to continuing to interact with the Committee on this and other matters.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Damian Hinds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Damian Hinds
Secretary of State for Education