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BUDGET 2016 AND FOUR-YEAR SETTLEMENTS

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2016.

I can confirm that I expect the four year allocations confirmed in the final settlement on 10 February 2016 to be the amounts presented to Parliament each year, should councils choose to accept the offer. It is open to any council to continue to work on a year-by-year basis, but I cannot guarantee future levels of funding for those that prefer not to have a four year settlement.

I have also been clear that funding allocations in 2019-20 may be subject to the implementation of 100% business rate retention, something councils have asked for over decades and which we are working with the sector to deliver.

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP