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Jonathan Slater  
Permanent Secretary  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
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31 August 2017

Dear Permanent Secretary

**Re: Learndirect and Adult Education Budget funding**

I am concerned by recent reports that Learndirect may be awarded funding despite failing to complete its tender process for this latest round of funding and following its recent Ofsted grade of four rating it inadequate.

Although Learndirect has received the lowest Ofsted grade I understand your department has not issued a three month termination notice but has agreed to extend Learndirect's contract until July 2018. I also understand that the Education and Skills Funding Agency are reviewing the policy for all providers that had not tendered and considering a minimum allocation of 75 per cent of the 2016/17 funding levels for these providers. If this is agreed I believe Learndirect would receive £34 million of taxpayer funds until the end of its contract in July next year.

I am very concerned that this level of funding is being considered for an organisation that has failed to achieve an acceptable Ofsted grade and has not completed the formal tendering process to justify any further funding.

I look forward to receiving a response detailing your department's rationale for these decisions.

Yours sincerely

Meg Hillier MP