



2024-0028918

Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

Councillor Millie Earl
Leader, Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Council
By email: millie.earl@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

4 October 2024

Dear Councillor Earl,

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 September, addressed to the Secretary of State and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), regarding funding for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP). I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

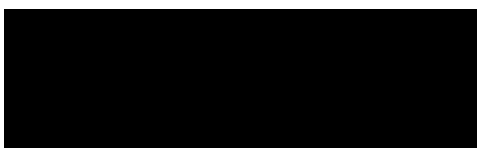
I appreciate the concerns you have raised. We are acting as quickly as we can to respond to the cost pressures in the SEND system, which we know are causing real financial problems in some local authorities, including BCP.

Before the Parliamentary recess we announced a new Core Schools Budget Grant which will provide special and alternative provision schools with over £140 million of extra funding this financial year, 2024-25, to help with the extra costs of this year's teachers' pay award and the outcome of the pay increase negotiations for support staff. This is in addition to the high needs funding allocations for children and young people with complex special educational needs and disabilities, and the existing teachers' pay and pensions grants, which total £10.75 billion this year.

We are working at pace with the MHCLG officials in BCP to review the position. We understand the urgency of the current financial position the council finds itself in and officers will work jointly with the council and MHCLG to try to find appropriate solutions.

Thank you for writing on this important matter. I appreciate your invitation to meet. Unfortunately, I am unable to accept due to diary pressures.

Yours,



Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for School Standards