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Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for School Standards

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Ms Vikki Slade MP
By email: vikki.slade.mp@parliament.uk

29 October 2024

Dear Vikki,

I am writing in response to a letter from the Leader of the House of Commons following your Business Question on 12 September, regarding school funding. I am replying as the Minister for Schools.

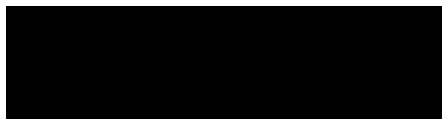
We are acting as quickly as we can to respond to the cost pressures in the special educational needs and disability system, which we know are causing real financial problems in some local authorities, including Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP).

Before the Parliamentary recess, we announced a new Core Schools Budget Grant that will provide special and alternative provision schools with over £140 million of extra funding this financial year, 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 with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and officials in BCP Council to review their position. We understand the urgency of the current financial position the council finds itself in and officials will work jointly with the council and MHCLG to try to find appropriate solutions.

I hope that this response is useful.

Yours,



Catherine McKinnell MP
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