



Jonathan Djanogly MP  
Member of Parliament for Huntingdon  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Justine Greening MP  
Secretary of State, Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT

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Dear Secretary of State

### **Consultation on Fair Funding Formula**

I write in response to the Government's second stage consultation on the National Funding Formula proposals.

Our Manifesto promised a consultation on a new funding formula for Education. This was in addition to the promises made by successive Ministers in the Department to Cambridgeshire MPs over the last few years. As a result expectations were raised but unfortunately these current proposals do not meet expectations.

Whilst schools in my constituency will see an overall increase in funding of 1.75% under the current proposals, and any increase is welcomed, it is not sufficient to address the chronic underfunding over the last 30 or more years. This has resulted in Cambridgeshire consistently receiving amongst the lowest grants.

Some nine schools in my constituency will lose money although this figure increases significantly if inflation is taken into account.

The National Audit Office predict that school costs will rise by approximately by 8% by 2019/20 and none of my schools will receive more than a 4 per cent increase under the current proposals. Thus in real terms, none of my schools will see an increase in their funding.

Cambridgeshire schools currently receive a £150,000 lump sum payment and this is set to reduce to £110,000 under the National Funding Formula. Many of my rural schools are hardest hit by this reduction and will see a decrease in their budgets, at a time when they are already struggling to make ends meet.

It would seem the introduction of a 3% funding floor together with the premise that all schools can make further efficiencies has prevented the Department from implementing the much anticipated fairer funding scheme I, and many of my colleagues, were expecting. Accordingly, I would strongly suggest that it needs to be extended into future years.

I would also strongly urge that the F40 proposals are carefully studied; in particular the basic funding for every pupil in this country should be raised to ensure fairness for all.

Yours sincerely

Tel: 020 7219 2367  
Email: [jonathan.djanogly.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jonathan.djanogly.mp@parliament.uk)  
[www.jonathandjanogly.com](http://www.jonathandjanogly.com)