

ELL(2) 12-05 (P.5)

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EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING
COMMITTEE

Jane Davidson AM

Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning



Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Eich cyf / Your Ref:

Ein cyf / Our Ref:

18 October 2005

Dear Minister,

BUDGET PLANNING ROUND 2005

Thank you for your presentation to Committee last week on the draft budget. Following the Minister for Finance and Local Government's Cabinet Written Statement of 5 October, the Committee acknowledged that the discussion on the budget at its 13 October meeting was a preliminary discussion. At the meeting, I indicated that I would write to confirm the issues identified by the Committee.

The Committee discussed its key priorities, some of which were set out in my letter of 25 May but requested that you take account of and give priority to the following:

early years education;

small schools funding - review whether this should be allocated to a small schools budget heading as opposed to being distributed amongst three budget headings;

address the funding gap between the higher education sectors in England and Wales;

funding for post-16/further education;

general funding for schools, in relation to the local government revenue settlement;

transition between primary and secondary school and

continued support for the free school breakfast initiative.

You also gave a commitment to seek clarification from the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services regarding efficiency savings being applied to schools, similarly to other bodies.

The Committee will consider the revised draft budget at its meeting on 30 November and I will write to you and the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services if the Committee wishes to amend its priorities as listed above in light of these discussions.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Black AM

Committee Chair

cc. Sue Essex AM, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services