

Kirsty Williams, AM
Cabinet Secretary for Education
Welsh Government

23 October 2018

Dear Kirsty

CYPE Committee Inquiry into School Funding

As you aware, the Committee is undertaking an inquiry into School Funding. Our [call for written evidence](#) was launched on 13 October 2018 and runs until 14 December 2018. A copy of the inquiry's Terms of Reference is provided at Annex A.

In order to help ensure the Committee's inquiry is as informed as it can be from the start, it would be very helpful to the Committee if you could provide the following information:

- Your assessment and views on the sufficiency of school budgets and the extent to which the current level of provision supports the delivery of the Welsh Government's education priorities and objectives;
- How the requirements of education services and specifically schools are considered within the total settlement given to local authorities and its allocation amongst local authorities;
- How the Welsh Government monitors the priority local authorities give to education and school budgets within their overall budget, including levels of delegated funding to schools and any monitoring of budgeted expenditure against Standard Spending Assessments and Indicator Based Assessments;



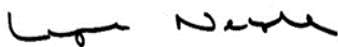
- The Welsh Government's oversight of the formulae local authorities use for allocating delegated budgets to individual schools under the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010;
- A summary of the formulae used by each local authority, if the Welsh Government holds this information (note that the Committee has written to each local authority requesting details of this);
- A summary of key policy developments affecting the way schools are funded since the work of the Second Assembly's Committee on School Funding, published in 2006, including outcomes from the 'Bramley Review'.

The Committee will begin to take oral evidence on this inquiry shortly after the Christmas recess. It would therefore be helpful to receive this information by **14 December 2018**, so that it can help inform Members ahead of the oral evidence sessions.

I would also like to invite you to attend the Committee on **14 March 2018**, which will be the final oral evidence session for this inquiry. Ahead of that session the Committee would be very happy to receive any further information you think necessary, in addition to the information requested in this letter.

The Committee thanks you for your attention to this subject and looks forward to working with you during the inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Neagle AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair



Annex A

Terms of Reference

The Committee is conducting an inquiry into:

- the **sufficiency** of school funding in Wales; and
- the **way** school budgets are determined and allocated.

The inquiry will focus specifically on:

- the sufficiency of provision for school budgets, in the context of other public service budgets and available resources;
- the extent to which the level of provision for school budgets complements or inhibits delivery of the Welsh Government's policy objectives;
- the relationship, balance and transparency between various sources of schools' funding, including core budgets and hypothecated funding;
- the local government funding formula and the weighting given to education and school budgets specifically within the Local Government Settlement;
- Welsh Government oversight of how Local Authorities set individual schools' budgets including, for example, the weighting given to factors such as age profile of pupils, deprivation, language of provision, number of pupils with Additional Learning Needs and pre-compulsory age provision;
- progress and developments since previous Assembly Committees' reviews (for example those of the [Enterprise and Learning Committee in the Third Assembly](#)); and
- the availability and use of comparisons between education funding and school budgets in Wales and other UK nations.

