

Kirsty Williams AM
Cabinet Secretary for Education

13 October 2016

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Inquiry into the Education Improvement Grant: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, and Minority Ethnic children

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is undertaking some work in relation to the Education Improvement Grant (EIG). The Committee has a particular interest in the use of the EIG to support the educational attainment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, and Minority Ethnic children.

To assist the Committee with its work, I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with the following information:

Policy decision to amalgamate grants into the EIG

1. Details of any impact assessment, particularly in relation to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, and Minority Ethnic children made by Welsh Government in advance of the decision to amalgamate the grants into the EIG.
2. Details of any other options considered before the decision to amalgamate the grants, including whether or not any of the grants could have continued as distinct grants.



3. During the draft budget round of 2015–16, the then Minister said that the new system should result in better outcomes for learners. Please provide any early evidence of this, in particular in relation to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller and Minority Ethnic children.

Process of allocating funds and measuring value for money

4. An explanation of the way in which the EIG is allocated, including the role of regional consortia, local authorities and individual schools in delegating and targeting funding to improve education outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, and Minority Ethnic children.

5. The amount of EIG that was allocated to, and subsequently spent by, each regional consortium and Local Authority in 2015–16, as well as allocations for 2016–17. Please could this information be broken down to show amounts allocated to specific interventions to improve education outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller and Minority Ethnic children.

6. Information about the Welsh Government's arrangements for monitoring the expenditure of the EIG in relation to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, and Minority Ethnic children.

7. Please provide details of any actual and projected cost savings that have arisen from this policy change.

8. Information about any other financial benefits that have arisen as a result of this policy change.

Evaluation

9. Any evidence that the amalgamation of the grant has resulted in better education outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller and Minority Ethnic children.

10. Details of the terms and conditions attached to regional consortia and local authorities' use of the EIG, particularly in relation to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, and Minority Ethnic children.



11. Details of the outcome and outcome measures for 2015–16 and 2016–17 for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller and Minority Ethnic children.

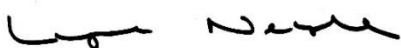
12. Details of the monitoring arrangements for adherence to the terms and conditions of the EIG, particularly the outcome and outcome measures, and the sanctions available to Welsh Government if they are not met.

13. Welsh Government’s “Minority ethnic achievement in education in Wales” information document says that it “will hold services to account for delivering improved learner outcomes”. Please provide information on which services are held to account and how.

14. Information about specific interventions for which the EIG was used to improve education outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller and Minority Ethnic children in 2015–16? Please also provide information on how the impact of such interventions is monitored.

The Committee is grateful for your assistance with this matter and looks forward to receiving your response. In order to fully inform the Committee’s work, I would be grateful if you could provide this information by 11 November.

Yours Sincerely



Lynne Neagle AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

