
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir David Norgrove

Angela Rayner MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Education
House of Commons
London
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9 March 2018

Dear Ms Rayner,

Thank you for your letter of 6 February (received 13 February) in which you raised concerns about statements made by the Secretary of State for Education on school funding.¹

The first statement referred to an increase in real-terms funding per pupil. Officials at the Department for Education have told us that this was said in error, and the record has now been corrected.²

You also asked me to consider statements regarding the impact of the National Funding Formula. Official data show that the Government will increase funding for schools in cash-terms for 2018-19 and 2019-20 compared to 2017-18. However, as many of the Department's own communications make clear, it will be Local Authorities who decide how the funding is allocated, and the extent to which they apply the new funding formula. The Secretary of State's suggestion that "each school *will* see at least a small cash increase" (our emphasis) was perhaps too strong. 'On average will' or 'could' would have been more precise.

I am copying this letter to the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education.

Yours sincerely



Sir David Norgrove

¹ [Letter from Angela Rayner MP to Sir David Norgrove](#) (February 2017)

² The correction to the statement is recorded on the Parliament website, [here](#). The Secretary of State's revised statement acknowledges real-terms funding per pupil was 'maintained', rather than 'increasing', between 2017-18 and 2019-20. The revised statement is consistent with [research published by the Institute for Fiscal Studies](#), and the Department for Education's own, published [analysis](#).