

Pennaeth Addysg Head of Education

Dewi R. Jones

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To headteachers and chairpersons of Gwynedd school governing bodies

Dear Headteacher and Chair of Governors

School Balances Instruction Scheme Review

You will already be aware of the right that has been delegated to me to instruct Governing Bodies on how to spend an element of their balances. Failure to act as instructed would entail reimbursement of the Education Service centrally.

Under the current scheme, I can consider implementing the right to instruct in situations where primary school balances exceed £50,000 as well as over 8%, and in the secondary and special sector where balances exceed £100,000 and also above 8%. I note that the legislation on the matter only refers to the specific financial threshold of £50,000/£100,000 i.e. there is no reference to threshold **percentage**, therefore, our current scheme is much less rigid than the legislation.

A high level of school balances at a National level and in Gwynedd still receives focus at several levels including from the Minister for Education, parents/public, elected members of Gwynedd Council etc.

During the meeting held on 19 November 2013, the Forum unanimously decided to consult on reviewing the current scheme as follows:

- **Head of Education to consider implementing the entitlement to instruct schools how to spend an element of their balances in situations where balances exceed 5% or £50,000 (Primary) / £100,000 (Secondary and Special) whichever is the lowest.**

If the above revised scheme is to be established, every school will need to give approval returning **Appendix A** to us by the end of the day, 23 May 2014.

I note that the Cabinet Member for Education and myself support the revised scheme.

The full comments will be presented to the Schools Budget Forum at their meeting to be held in June 2014.

For your information, here is the link to the Schools Budget Forum reports on the internet
http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/gwy_doc.asp?cat=8068&doc=29857&Language=2&p=1&c=1

Yours sincerely

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