



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Chief Executives – Local Authorities in Wales

3 October 2014

Dear Colleagues

The Minister for Education and Skills wrote to Local Authority Leaders on 14 August outlining the need for Welsh Government departments to make in-year reductions to support Welsh Government priorities.

We are seeking to make an overall reduction of up to £4.4million in 2014-15. The reductions have been set by Welsh Government against the School Effectiveness Grant, the Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant and the 14-19 Learning Pathways Grant.

In correspondence to the Director General for DfES, Local Authority Directors of Education have outlined their concerns at the level and focus of these reductions. In July we met informally with ADEW lead Directors and the WLGA to hear their concerns. At that meeting it was clear that there was a combined will to take a pragmatic approach to implementing the reductions and ensure we continue to achieve the improvements we collectively seek in Welsh education whilst managing reducing budgets.

Furthermore we have held a number of meetings with the WLGA and the four lead Chief Executives who have requested additional flexibility around a number of grants to enable Authorities and consortia to identify alternative areas in which to make the required savings and offset some of the reductions levied against the SEG, MEAG and 14-19 grants to lessen the impact on schools and learners.

We are content to consider this option. We are currently developing proposals to simplify our school focused grant funding for 2015-16. We have provisionally identified a suite of grants to rationalise into a single funding stream, which will be outcome focused. We are content to advance elements of that work into this year and provide Authorities with additional flexibility to vire between that suite of grants in order to effect the necessary reductions in a way that has the least impact on schools and learners. Any alternative spending arrangements within that suite of grants will require the authorisation of Welsh Government. Key outcomes and expectations for individual grants must still be met, including for example maintaining the ratios for the Foundation Phase.

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Proposals which reduce the administration burden are welcomed. In agreeing any alternative spending arrangements, our priority focus will be on reduced impact of the reductions on schools and learners.

Please notify us within 7 days' receipt of this letter, whether you wish to accept this offer of allowing additional flexibility to off-set the £4.4 million savings. This will allow for outstanding grant terms and conditions for the SEG and 14-19 Learning Pathways to be released.

Any Authority wishing to take up the offer of additional flexibility will then be required to present an alternative proposal by the end of October, indicating how it intends to best effect the reductions to lessen the impact on schools and learners. Proposals must be agreed within the relevant consortia region for grants which are delivered regionally. Proposals will be subject to approval of the Welsh Government. Where required, revisions to existing terms and conditions will be issued.

In the event that an Authority does not wish to accept this offer, or if agreement to the proposals cannot be reached, we will by default apply the reductions to the SEG, 14-19 Learning Pathways and Minority Ethnic Achievement grants.

We will continue to work through the WLGA and four lead Chief Executives in the coming weeks.

The suite of grants has been identified as follows:

14-19 Learning Pathways

Foundation Phase

School Effectiveness Grant

Welsh in Education Grant

Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant

Grant for the Education of Gypsy Children and Traveller Children

Induction

Lead and Emerging Practitioner Grant

Higher Level Teaching Assistants

Additional funding for Band 4 and 5 schools not part of the SCC programme

Family Learning Programme Grant

Grants also included in the proposal for 2015-16, but which are outside of scope for flexibility in 2014-15:

Reading and Numeracy Test Support – *for costs incurred by schools in May.*



Brett Pugh

Director

School Standards and Workforce  
Group.



Jo-Anne Daniels

Director

Infrastructure, Curriculum, Qualifications  
and Learner Support Group.

<sup>1</sup> The Family Learning Programme Grant is not identified as part of rationalisation proposals for 2015-16 but can be considered as part of the suite of grants for 2014-15.