



Vernon Coaker MP

Minister of State for Schools and Learners

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Dear Peter

It was good to speak to the f40 group last week, and I felt it was a good discussion. I noted the concerns raised with regard to funding in Devon.

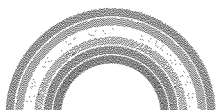
We want all children to have an equal chance to succeed and it is right that we invest our resources where they are most needed. I am sure you will understand that whilst we are currently carrying out a major review of education funding, I cannot make any commitments at this time but would like to reassure you that we do take your concerns very seriously. I cannot promise increases in funding, but I can promise that the evidence we have got and the messages we have received from schools and local authorities will be taken into account.

The review will look at how the Government funds local authorities for schools, taking into account different individual needs in each area. We are looking very closely at issues that affect local authorities like Devon, for instance the options for additional educational needs, sparsity, and how the Area Cost Adjustment might reflect real costs in the teaching profession. But I cannot yet say what the result will be.

Our aim is to develop an education funding formula that will distribute resources that reflect the relative need of the area, recognise the different costs of educating particular groups of pupils and create a funding system that is fit for the challenges and priorities of the next decade. My Department will launch a public consultation on these proposals in early 2010 with a view to the new distribution formula being available for use from 2011-12. Details are available at: www.teachernet.gov.uk/dsgformulareview/.

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department for
children, schools and families