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Michelle Donelan MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Ian Yapp
Chair, North Yorkshire Schools Forum
Riverside School Tadcaster
Wetherby Road
Tadcaster
LS24 9JN

05 FEB 2020

Dear Mr Yapp,

Thank you for your letter of 17 January on behalf of schools and academies in North Yorkshire, about high needs funding. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

I welcome your helpful letter and your response to the recent 'Call for Evidence' regarding high needs funding, both outlining the concerns raised by members of the North Yorkshire Schools Forum. I appreciate your detailing the situation in North Yorkshire, and what you feel is driving the local authority's high needs budget pressures. Your comments have been forwarded to department officials to consider along with those who responded to our call for evidence last year.

As you and your members will be aware, we have launched a review of the SEND system to see what further improvements are necessary to ensure that every child gets the education that is right for them. This review aims to establish a sustainable and effective SEND system by improving the services available to those who need support and ensuring that staff in schools and colleges are equipped to respond effectively to their needs.

In the meantime, we will continue to work with local authorities, schools and colleges to ensure that the additional £780 million investment in high needs funding is working as well as it can for children and young people with the most complex needs.

Thank you again for your members' valuable feedback.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Donelan MP

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