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Mr John Freeman  
Director of Children Services  
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Westox House  
1 Trinity Road  
Dudley DY1 1JQ

Dear Mr Freeman

**Old Swinford Hospital – Application to expand as a successful and popular school**

As you are aware, Old Swinford Hospital School applied for funding to expand as a successful and popular secondary school. Lynda Waltho MP recently met with Jim Knight, the Minister of State for Schools and 14-19 learners, to discuss the school's application and the impact on the neighbouring schools and the wider community.

I am writing to inform you that following this meeting, Jim Knight has agreed to reduce by 50% the amount of funds to be contributed by the Council - from £2.1million to £1.05 million. This is to enable the Council to continue with its planned investment strategy for its schools' estate.

I would envisage clawing back the £1.05 million from the LCVAP allocation over a three year period provided the proposal is approved locally (i.e. by either the School Organisation Committee or an independent adjudicator). However, I would be happy to discuss this further if this proves difficult.

Yours sincerely



Titi Windapo  
Schools Capital Division

Cc Mrs Lynda Waltho MP  
Mr Melyvn Roffe, Headmaster Old Swinford Hospital



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