



Department
for Education

Appendix C

Consultation Response Form

Consultation closing date: 30 April 2014
Your comments must reach us by that date

Fairer schools funding in 2015-16

If you would prefer to respond online to this consultation please use the following link: <https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for confidentiality:	
Name: Schools Forum / Ms P Sharratt (Interim Director of Children's Services)	
Please tick if you are responding on behalf of your organisation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name of Organisation (if applicable): Dudley Schools Forum	
Address: Dudley MBC Directorate of Childrens Services Westox House Trinity Road Dudley West Midlands DY1 1JQ	

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](#) page.

Please mark the box that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> Maintained school	<input type="checkbox"/> Academy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local authority
<input type="checkbox"/> Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> Bursar	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools forum	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade union organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Please Specify:
Combined response on behalf of Schools Forum and Director of Children's Services.

1 Do you agree that the existing distribution of schools funding is unfair?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:
The current distribution is based on historical levels of funding which are not reflective of actual need.

2 Do you agree with our proposed choice of characteristics to which to attach minimum funding levels?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:
No comment

Basic per pupil £2,845 (Primary), £3,951 (KS3), £4,529 (KS4)
Deprivation
FSM6 £893 / £1,080
IDAC1 1-6 (Primary £237 - £741), (Secondary £321 - £894)
LAC £1,009
Low Prior Attainment (LPA) £878 / £1,961
EAL £505/ £1,216
Lump Sum £117,082 / £128,189
Additional sparsity schools serving rural communities up to £53,988 (NA for Dudley)
ACA Various (Dudley 1.0033)
Based on the above methodology Dudley Minimum Funding Level (MFL) per pupil is £4,432 compared to actual funding received £4,459. Dudley is currently funded at approximately £1.1m above the MFL.

Given our proposal to set minimum funding levels such that we can afford to fund all local authorities at those levels or above in 2015-16, do you agree with the proposed values of the minimum funding levels?

3 a) Age Weighted Pupil Unit

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 b) Deprivation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 c) Looked-after children

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 d) English as an additional language

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 e) Low prior attainment

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 f) Lump sum

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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3 g) Sparsity

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

Agree with the proposed values for the above.

4 Do you agree that labour market cost differences should be taken into account as we allocate the £350m?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

A factor to reflect regeneration based on IDACI data should be used rather than a factor based on labour cost market differences.

5 Do you agree this should be calculated using the hybrid approach we have set out?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

See response to Question 4.

*4 regional pay bands (Inner London, Outer London, the Fringe, Rest of England).
Based on School Workforce Census 2012, average place in salary range compared this value for Rest of England to value if in one of 3 other pay bands.
Ratios as below:
Inner London 1: 1.1897
Outer London 1: 1.0996
Fringe 1: 1.0298
Rest of England 1.0000
Non-teaching staff element (based on Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) labour cost adjustment.
A split between teaching and non-teaching ratio is calculated for each LA based on most recent S251 data.
Dudley Teacher cost adj. 1.0000 / non teaching 1:1.0122. Hybrid 1: 1.0033*

6 If you do not agree that we should use a hybrid approach, what would you prefer we used?

<input type="checkbox"/> Use teacher pay bands only	<input type="checkbox"/> Use a general labour market measure only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use an alternative method
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Comments:
See response to Question 4.

Sparsity Review

7 We introduced a sparsity factor for the first time in 2015-16. How helpful has this factor been in ensuring that sufficient funding is targeted at small schools serving sparsely populated areas?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Not useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:
There should be additional support available for small schools serving sparsely populated areas.

8 Do you think it would be useful to revise the criteria for the sparsity factor to take into account the average number of pupils in each year group, rather than the number of pupils in the school? If so how?

Useful

Not useful

Not sure

Comments:

No comment.

9 Are there any other changes you would like to suggest to improve the operation of this factor, and why?

Comments:

No comment.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply.	✓
E-mail address for acknowledgement: sue.coates@dudley.gov.uk	

Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, please confirm below if you would be willing to be contacted again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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All DfE public consultations are required to meet the Cabinet Office [Principles on Consultation](#)

The key Consultation Principles are:

- departments will follow a range of timescales rather than defaulting to a 12-week period, particularly where extensive engagement has occurred before
- departments will need to give more thought to how they engage with and use real discussion with affected parties and experts as well as the expertise of civil service learning to make well informed decisions
- departments should explain what responses they have received and how these have been used in formulating policy
- consultation should be 'digital by default', but other forms should be used where these are needed to reach the groups affected by a policy
- the principles of the Compact between government and the voluntary and community sector will continue to be respected.

If you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Aileen Shaw, DfE Consultation Coordinator, tel: 0370 000 2288 / email: aileen.shaw@education.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

Completed responses should be sent to the address shown below by 30 April 2014

Ministerial and Public Communication Division, Level 2, Department for Education, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, DARLINGTON DL3 9BG

Send by e-mail to:
SchoolFunding.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk