

to

date 4th November 2013

your ref
my ref AR876/sls
service
tel 0151 666 4293 Please ask for Andrew Roberts
fax 0151 666 4338
email andrewroberts@wirral.gov.uk

Dear Headteacher

Consultation on Element 3 Top Up Funding for Pupils with High Needs SEN

I am seeking your views about requesting an exemption from the EFA from a requirement to apply a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to High Needs Top Up rates that will be introduced from April 2014.

The background to this was discussed with Special Schools and Bases on 29th and 30th October alongside the outcome of the funding consultation.

Briefly as a reminder the main points appear to be:

- The requirement for an MFG in 2014-15 was confirmed by the EFA in their document Arrangements for School Funding published in mid July
- The MFG applies to High Needs Top Up funding provided to each pupil.
- This would give some continuing protection to the existing High Needs pupil funding for schools where the level of funding is reducing
- However in some cases the MFG will give more funding overall per pupil than the previous year. Typically this is when there is more than one band in use at a school
- The MFG has a total cost in excess of £800,000. This would be un-affordable, and would require any gains to schools to be capped
- The implementation of a new banded structure, which was supported by most consultation responses, would effectively be deferred

To apply for an exemption it is important to know the views of those schools that are affected. I would be grateful if you would indicate the option you would support. The advantages and disadvantages of each option are set out below and attached is a table illustrating the funding allocated by the 3 options.

	Option 1 No MFG	Option 2 Average MFG	Option 3 No Exemption
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full introduction of new banded top up systems • Supported by most consultation responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides some protection against large funding changes • A school cannot gain from the new banding structure and the MFG • An exemption could request the MFG is phased out over 3 years to coincide with a further review of provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MFG is applied as intended by the DFE
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reduction in funding to a few schools is significant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MFG will cost nearly £400,000, committing additional resources and contingencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some schools would gain from the new banded structure and the MFG • The cost is in excess of £800,000 and is unaffordable • Gains would have to be capped

I would be grateful if you would complete and return the attached by 11th November 2013 to andrewroberts@wirral.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Julia Hassall
Director of Childrens Services

Consultation on Element 3 Top Up Funding for Pupils with High Needs SEN

My School

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Support	Option 1	No MFG	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Option 2	Average MFG	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Option 3	No Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please scan and return by e-mail to andrewroberts@wirral.gov.uk

Special Schools Top Ups (Using Termly numbers)

School	2013-14 £	Option 1 No MFG	Option 2 Average MFG	Option 3 MFG
Kilgarth	960,445	967,416	967,416	967,369
Observatory	947,705	885,514	921,514	920,930
Gilbrook	1,128,855	1,122,001	1,122,001	1,122,048
Hayfield	1,583,148	1,632,086	1,632,086	1,750,798
Claremount	2,469,031	2,507,225	2,507,225	2,578,700
Orrets	774,542	840,419	840,419	791,159
Meadowside	1,340,404	1,405,738	1,405,738	1,372,554
Foxfield	2,304,554	2,300,026	2,300,026	2,302,378
Elleray	1,518,777	1,603,732	1,618,582	1,633,185
Lyndale	761,733	768,121	780,771	821,392
Stanley	1,571,391	1,558,714	1,578,424	1,578,637
Primary				
Bidston Village CofE (Controlled) Primary School	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000
Devonshire Park Primary School	296,669	364,000	364,000	304,691
Eastway Primary School	194,914	250,000	250,000	207,247
Fender Primary School	208,188	262,000	262,000	225,208
New Brighton Primary School	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000
The Priory Parish CofE Primary School	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Woodslee Primary School	107,792	134,000	134,000	117,603
Townfield (Hearing)	230,900	183,333	211,305	209,368
Secondary				
Woodchurch High School				
Engineering College	373,666	255,000	370,305	370,310
Hilbre High School	168,644	185,000	185,000	172,230
Bebington High Sports College	292,516	250,000	293,650	291,890
Wallasey School	347,683	300,000	349,110	346,958
UAB	484,985	300,000	364,960	383,708
Oldershaw	207,285	200,000	210,740	207,171
Alternative Provision				
St Michael and All Angels	88,709	104,000	104,000	97,435
Riverside Primary School	86,918	102,333	102,333	95,005
WASP	1,037,600	1,024,000	1,024,000	1,031,604
Contingency		394,947		
	20,047,054	20,459,606	20,459,605	20,459,578