DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 251 OF THE APPRENTICESHIPS, SKILLS, CHILDREN AND LEARNING ACT 2009

This Direction covers the form, content and publication of information about planned expenditure by all Local Authorities in England, in connection with their education functions and their children's social care functions, for the period 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013

The Secretary of State for the Department for Education makes the following direction in exercise of the power conferred upon him by section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009:

That all Local Authorities ("LAs") in England prepare and submit a statement ("Budget Statement") containing financial information about:

- how much the LA intends to allocate to their Schools Budget, other education budgets and other children's social care budgets;
- how much of the Schools Budget the LA intends to retain centrally for expenditure on schools;
- how the formula for determining the budget share for each school in the LA's area is implemented.

So that meaningful comparisons of funding and methodology may be made between all LAs, all Budget Statements must be prepared in a common format. The Department will supply to each LA an electronic workbook to enable this.

LAs must send their Budget Statements for the period to the Department for Education via the Department's COLLECT (Centralised On-Line for Learning, Education, Children and Teachers) system.

The Budget statement must be published and presented in eight parts for the prescribed period. The Tables should appear on the Authority's website in the following order:

Schools Budget Summary Table

Table 1 - LA level information

Central Expenditure Limit Annex

Table 2 - School level information

Table 3a - Primary and secondary schools

Table 3b - Special Schools

Table 3c - Early Years Single Funding Formula

Table 4 — Funding Factors

The LA's Budget Statement must be made available as follows:

- to every school maintained by the LA: The LA must provide a hard copy of the Budget Statement, including a copy of the Schools Budget Summary Table, the CEL Annex and Tables 1, 2, 3 (a, b and c) and Table 4, to the governing body and head teacher if they do not have access to the Internet.
- to those private, voluntary and independent providers (PVI Providers") who are funded to provide free early provision to 3 and 4 year olds: The LA must show how they can access a copy of the Budget Statement;
- to the general public: The LA must make available a copy of the Budget Statement, including a copy of the Schools Budget Summary Table, the CEL Annex and Tables 1, 2, 3 (a, b and c) and 4, for inspection by parents and others in the community at all reasonable times and free of charge;
- on a website: The LA must make available a copy of the Budget Statement, including a copy of the Schools Budget Summary Table, the CEL Annex and Tables 1, 2, 3 (a, b and c) and 4, on a website maintained by the LA and accessible to the public.

Anji Lit

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Dated 21.2.12