



**David Bell**  
Permanent Secretary

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Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP  
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**NEW SCHOOLS NETWORK**

Thank you for your letter of 28 October regarding the above subject. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Shadow Secretary of State for Education.

As you say in your letter, on occasion there is good reason for agreements to be entered into very quickly. The provision of additional high quality school places is a key manifesto and Coalition Agreement commitment, and it was very important to build early momentum. The New Schools Network (NSN) has championed the development of parent and teacher promoted schools and has been providing advice and support to those interested in establishing new schools since 2009, as well as developing networks amongst interested groups and individuals. NSN is ideally placed to carry out this work for an initial period, as we are not aware there are any other organisations primarily specialising in this type of support.

Options for this work were considered by officials in the usual way and advice presented to Ministers. I have no doubt that the appropriate steps were followed by officials in coming to the decision to award a grant to New Schools Network, and as Accounting Officer I signed off the award. It is not uncommon for the Department to enter into grant agreements without tendering. Under the previous administration, 84 grants were entered into in this way in the financial year 2010-11, and I remain perfectly comfortable with this procedure. A full list of those grants is attached. It is also the case that grants were awarded for significantly larger amounts than that which has been awarded to the NSN, such as, for example, a grant for £13.8m to the SSAT.

The NSN grant agreement was formally signed on Monday 8 November; it expires on 31 July 2011. It took longer than expected to reach agreement because we wanted to make sure that the grant agreement made clear to NSN its responsibilities in relation to the public funding and ensure that the money is spent within usual Government guidelines. Before it expires, the Department will consider the longer-term need for support for Free School proposers. We do not foresee any negative effects on the implementation of the Free Schools policy as a result of the delay.

In the interests of transparency, I am placing a copy of this letter on the Department's website, and have copied it to the press.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

David Bell

DAVID BELL

Grant name	Main Grant Recipient	Award in Current Year (2010-11) (£)
Award for School Governors	The Teaching Awards Trust	£100,000
Sustainable schools funding	The Teaching Awards Trust	£118,000
Funding for the Sinnott fellowship	The Teaching Awards Trust	£450,000
Core funding for the teaching awards trust	The Teaching Awards Trust	£350,000
School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS)	SGOSS	£790,000
City Challenge Grant	Tower Hamlets Summer University	£366,000
Pears Foundation grant	The Pears Foundation	£250,000
Holocaust Educational Trust 'Lessons from Auschwitz'	Holocaust Educational Trust	£1,550,000
National Centre for Languages (CILT) grant	CILT, the National Centre for Languages	£3,382,000
Miscellaneous music projects	Music for Youth	£145,000
Music Service Evaluation Partners work	Federation of Music Services	£347,000
Council for Learning Outside the Classroom	Council for Learning Outside the Classroom	£579,000
Diana Anti-bullying award	Diana Award	£100,000
Specialist Schools Development and Support	Specialist Schools and Academies Trust	£13,809,000
Voluntary Reading Help Grant	Volunteering Reading Help -distributed in Schools	£100,000



National Reading Campaign Grant	National Literacy Trust - distributed in schools, community, early years settings	£1,000,000
Booktrust-Everybody Writes Grant	Booktrust - distributed in schools	£75,000
National Youth Agency/The Reading Agency - Out of the Box Grant	National Youth Agency - distributed in libraries, community, youth settings	£51,000
Education and Employers Taskforce.	Education and Employers Taskforce.	£623,000
National Challenge Grant	Youth at Risk	£467,000
Activity Agreement Pilot	Connexions Partnership Kent & Medway Ltd	£479,000
Activity Agreement Pilot	London East Connexions Partnership	£1,437,000
Eden project - Green Talent Programme	Eden project	£765,000
Enterprise UK- Future Story	Enterprise UK	£26,000
Virtual School Gate	NetMums	£11,000
Innovation Fund Grant	Young carers coalition/Princess Royal Trust	£493,000
Helpline Development Programme	NSPCC	£6,501,000
City Challenge Grant	Manchester United Foundation	£60,000
City Challenge Grant	London Higher	£126,000
City Challenge Grant	BlastBeat	£136,000
City Challenge Grant	Learning Plus UK	£269,000
Film Club	Film Club	£4,600,000

Sorrell Foundation	Sorrell Foundation	£250,000 revenue £231,000 capital
Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education	Royal Society	£150,000
Science Community Representing Education	Royal Society	£150,000
CREST Award Expansion	The British Science Association	£563,000
Big Bang Fair	Engineering UK	£150,000
Engineering Education Scheme and GO4SET project	Engineering Development Trust	£76,000
Drug Education Forum	Mentor UK	£62,000
Sex Education Forum	Sex Education Forum hosted by NCB	£116,000
School Swimming Improvement Programme	Amateur Swimming Association	£1,005,000
Ability vs Ability Programme	NASUWT (The Teachers' Union)	£100,000
Support for the PE and sport strategy and other sport related work programmes	Youth Sport Trust	£14,213,000
European Space Education Resource Office	MyScience Ltd	£80,000
Princes Drawing School	Princes Drawing School	£30,000
Sing Up Chorister Outreach	Choir Schools Association	£800,000
Instrument Fund	Federation of Music Services	£20,000
Register & Be a Lifesaver Pilot Programme	Anthony Nolan Trust	£110,000
Grant to help Improve quality and teaching of PSHE education in schools	PSHE Association	£260,000
Project Enthuse	The Enthuse Charitable Trust	£2,000,000
Diana Award	Diana Award	£235,000

National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE)	NATRE	£80,000
Religious Education Council (REC)	REC	£50,000
V – The Young Volunteers Service	V – The Young Volunteers Service	£3,360,000
Extended Telephone Support Grant	Parentline Plus	£365,000
Contact Point	Action for Children (formerly National Children's Homes)	£15,000
Contact Point	Barnardos	£14,000
Contact Point	Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre (CEOP)	£12,000
Contact Point	KIDS	£7,000
Contact Point	NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)	£8,000
Contact Point	The Children's Society	£7,000
Study Support	Academy of Youth Limited (known as University of the First Age (UFA)).	£503,000
Quality in Study Support (QiSS)	Canterbury Christ Church University	£565,000
Study Support	Children's University (CU Trust)	£750,000
Dyslexia Trust	British Dyslexia Association	£653,000
Communication Trust	Communications Trust via ICAN	£830,000
Contact A Family	Contact A Family	£284,000
National Parent Partnership	Council for Disabled Children	£279,000
Family Fund Trust	Family Fund Trust	£27,323,000



Autism Education Trust (AET)	National Autistic Society	£630,000
Special Education Needs	RNIB	£200,000
Children Young People and Families Grant (CYPF)	A National Voice	£250,000
Children Young People and Families Grant (CYPF)	British Association for Adoption and Fostering	£286,000
Children Young People and Families Grant (CYPF)	Children's Society	£100,000
Children Young People and Families Grant (CYPF)	Fostering Network	£150,000
Making the Link	Child Accident Prevention Trust	£240,000
National Association for Gifted Children	National Association for Gifted Children	£171,000
Development of Cadet Forces	Cadet Vocational Qualification	£79,000
CYPF Grant	Joint Educational Trust	£42,000
Schools Linking Grant	School Linking Network	£477,000
Opening Doors for Refugee Teachers Project	The Employability Forum	£80,000
Royal Academy of Engineering	Royal Academy of Engineering	£12,000
STEM Clubs	STEMNET	£1,974,000
Impact Awards	Myscience.co.ltd	£1,500,000