



**The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister for Schools

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Daniel Kebede, General Secretary, NEU  
Geoff Barton, General Secretary, ASCL  
Paul Whiteman, General Secretary, NAHT  
Dr Patrick Roach, General Secretary, NASUWT

13 October 2023

Dear Daniel, Geoff, Paul, Patrick,

Thank you for your letter dated 12 October 2023 regarding the Department's republication of the 2024-25 National Funding Formula (notional) allocations. As you are aware, this change followed an error by DfE officials. The Permanent Secretary has since written to the Education Select Committee and the Secretary of State to apologise for the error. The Secretary of State has asked the Permanent Secretary to carry out an external and independent evaluation of the quality assurance process for the National Funding Formula. Improvements have already been identified to ensure that similar mistakes are not repeated.

I want to be very clear that the republication does not change the total core schools budget for 2024-25 at £59.6 billion. This is the highest ever level of school funding in our history in real terms. Within this total we will deliver an average 1.9% increase in funding per pupil in 2024-25 via the NFF, compared to this year – as per the republished allocations. With the addition of the Teachers' Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) remaining unchanged, the total mainstream school funding will increase by 2.6% per pupil compared to 2023-24.

As you will no doubt be aware, this change has no impact on current funding for 2023-24. Schools' NFF allocations for 2024-25 will be finalised by March, as per usual. The republication does not change this, as schools always await these final allocations before finalising their budgets.

I want to reassure you that these republished funding rates will be the funding rates the government uses to deliver final allocations, regardless of what now happens to actual pupil numbers in the 2023 October census. If those pupil numbers outstrip current forecasts, we will continue to honour these rates as we have done in previous years. The technical error made by DfE officials in processing forecast pupil numbers is a completely separate matter.

This has, of course, been a very unfortunate error, and comprehensive measures are being put in place to ensure that it is not repeated. I hope this letter helps to clarify that, nonetheless, this error has not undermined the record levels of funding totals that the Department has promised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Gibb', written in a cursive style.

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