Department for Education
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Date: 2 November 2026

Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for the elective home education and children missing education local authority data collection (2026-2027) MHCLG ref: 31/8565

Dear Sir or Madam

This Determination is made between:

(1) **The Secretary of State for Education** and

(2) **[LA]**

On 29 February 2024, the Department for Education wrote to local authority elective home education (EHE) and children missing education (CME) teams to inform them that from Autumn 2024, it will be mandatory for all local authorities to submit a return to the termly aggregate EHE and CME data collection under Section 29(1) of the Education Act 1996.

To support local authorities in meeting this requirement, each local authority will receive £922.95 over three years. This figure was derived from the average completion time submitted by local authorities for the Spring, Summer and Autumn 2023 data collections. The first payment of £307.65 was made to local authorities on 27 February 2025. The second payment for the same amount was made on 13 November 2025.

Purpose of this grant

This grant should be used to cover the compliance costs of submitting a return to the data collection each term. Full guidance on how to submit the data collection is available in the official guidance.

Grant allocations

Total funding of £46,762.80 is available to local authorities for 2026-27. Funds will be made available in the form of a Section 31 grant to local authorities. Each local authority will receive £307.65 through this grant.

Payment arrangements

Payment for the 2026/27 academic year will be made in one instalment on 12 November 2026.

EHE and CME termly data collection

Data collection dates from Autumn 2026 to Summer 2027 are available to view in the official guidance document.

While local authorities will be required to **submit** a data return termly, they are not required to collect and provide the data requested. However, local authorities are encouraged to do so. Gaps in data will impact the ability of the Department to accurately understand the EHE and CME cohorts at a national and local authority level. Please refer to the data collection guidance for further information on how to record unknown information.

Local authorities can use the Department's data collections service request form to ask any question about the data collection.

Yours sincerely



Simon Blake, Deputy Director, Attendance Division and

Shreena Kotecha, Deputy Director, Non-School Education Division