



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th March 2018

Jean Comstieat,

RE: DON'T CUT OUR SCHOOLS.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of school funding.

I am proud that we are delivering on the manifesto commitment to end the historic postcode lottery that created huge differences in funding between similar schools in different parts of the country. I am encouraged by the £1.3 billion boost for core school funding, meaning school funding will rise from almost £41 billion this year to £42.4 billion in 2018/19 and £43.5 billion by 2019/20. This comes as we transition to a national funding formula, and I welcome the fact that the new formula will maintain overall per pupil funding in real terms for the next two years.

The current school funding arrangements are unfair and outdated. They are based on an historic and opaque postcode lottery that is so inconsistent that it can put similar children in similar schools at an unfair educational disadvantage. These historic reforms to the funding system will balance fairness and stability for schools. It will also build on the rising school standards delivered since 2010.

The new national funding formula will increase the basic amount allocated for every pupil and will allocate a minimum per pupil funding level for both secondary and primary schools to target the lowest funded schools. It will provide a minimum cash increase for every school of 1 percent per pupil by 2019-20, with the most underfunded schools seeing rises of 3 percent per pupil in 2018-19 and 2019-20. I am also encouraged that every school will receive a lump sum of £110,000 to help with fixed costs.

Small rural schools play a crucial role in local communities and reduce travel times for many children. I welcome the fact that under the national funding formula, rural schools will gain on average 3.9 percent, with those schools in the most remote locations gaining 5.0 percent. As a result of this funding boost, school funding will be some £2.6 billion higher in 2019-20 compared to 2017-18.

I am delighted that this is being felt in our area, having made the fairer funding case for some time. As a result of the new funding formula, the vast majority of schools in Corby and East Northamptonshire will receive an increase in funding, and no school will lose out. I am sure you will agree with me that this is a positive step forward and I am proud to have campaigned hard for this change, which will see the majority of our schools better off.



Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

with best wishes

Tom

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**