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**Edward Timpson MP**  
Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families

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*Dan Paul,*

23 January 2017

Thank you for email of 22 December, about Slough and East Berkshire Church of England Multi Academy Trust's request for additional high needs funding for Slough.

I understand your concerns with regard to high needs funding. I would like to assure you that the government is committed to making the funding system fairer, with funding transparently matched to schools' and children's needs. A fairer funding system will help to underpin the education system so that it can promote social mobility and social justice. Our plans for future changes to the funding arrangements include the introduction of national funding formulae for schools and high needs.

In chapter 4 of the government's response to Stage one of the consultation on high needs funding reforms, we confirmed £23 million of additional funding in 2016-17. This is to support local authorities in undertaking a strategic review of their high needs provision, or to implement outcomes if a review has already taken place. Slough's share is £76,885. Our response to Stage one, and proposals for Stage two, are available at: [tinyurl.com/zj2whon](http://tinyurl.com/zj2whon). More Information about the High needs Strategic funding plan for 2016-17 is available at: [tinyurl.com/jywtvw7](http://tinyurl.com/jywtvw7).

We have also provided £92.5 million of additional funding for high needs in 2016-17, and have confirmed a further £130 million for 2017-18. Slough's share of the total of £222.5 million is £0.95 million. More information on the 2017-18 funding uplift can be found online at: [tinyurl.com/zfbrup9](http://tinyurl.com/zfbrup9).

As you are aware, we are currently consulting on proposals for a new national funding formula for schools and high needs, which will be implemented in 2018-19. Stage 2 of the consultation will run until 22 March, and we are keen to hear from as many schools, governors, local authorities and parents as possible. The live consultation, together with all relevant documents, is available online at the previously cited address.

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I understand that Slough Borough Council now believes that the overspend on high needs in 2016-17 will be considerably less than £800,000, and is considering how best to proceed with it. I would suggest that you contact the Council for an update of their plans in this regard.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kindest regards,



**Edward Timpson MP**  
**Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families**

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