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Lord Agnew Kt DL

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
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Mrs Dianne Richardson
Chair of Bradford Schools Forum
Swain House Primary School
Radcliffe Avenue
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27th June 2019

Thank you for your letter of 4 June, regarding capital funding for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Bradford. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government is committed to investing in school places for children with SEND. As you may already be aware, in March 2017, the Department announced local authority allocations from a £215 million investment in provision for pupils with SEND. The formula for these allocations was based principally on projected population growth for children and young people aged 2-18 between the years 2017-18 and 2020-21, for which we used the Office for National Statistics 2014-based sub-national population projections, available at: tinyurl.com/Y3codbce. This was the most up-to-date data available at the time of publication. In this data set for the category of 2 to 18-year-olds between 2017-18 and 2020-21, Bradford was forecast demographic growth of 1,301. Regional location factors from the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) as at December 2015 were then applied to account for the varied costs of building in different regions. At this time, Yorkshire and the Humber's location factor was 0.91.

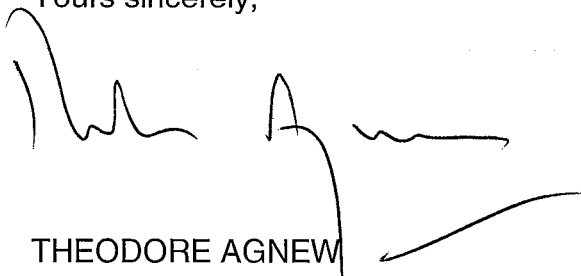
For each local authority, we multiplied the demographic growth by the location factor figures. The resulting figures from each local authority were added together to work out the national total for projected demographic growth, with location factors taken into account. We then calculated each local authority's contribution to this total as a percentage. The city of Bradford Metropolitan District Council's projected demographic growth by location factor value, as a proportion of the national total, was 0.318 per cent. Finally, we used this figure to calculate the local authority allocations, while also ensuring that no local authorities received less than £500,000.

The Department announced ~~£50 million additional grant funding in May 2018~~ and a further £100 million in December 2018. As explained in our guidance, we split this additional funding between local authorities. For the additional £50 million, we calculated this split by increasing every original allocation by 50/215ths and for the £100 million, we increased every original allocation by 100/215ths.

This additional funding takes our total investment to £365 million for the financial years 2018-19 to 2020-21, which will help local authorities to create new places and improve facilities for pupils with SEND. We will be looking carefully at capital funding in preparation for the next Spending Review, along with all our priorities for the education system. This includes funding for pupils with SEN.

Thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodore Agnew', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

THEODORE AGNEW