



**HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA**

28 November 2016

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to you regarding a campaign on school funding recently launched by the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL). You may have received correspondence in relation to this from the unions directly, or automated emails generated through the campaign's website.

The campaign incorrectly claims that almost every school will lose funding over the coming years, and makes inaccurate projections about individual schools' budgets that do not reflect either the Government's current or future policy. This represents irresponsible scaremongering, based on speculation. It is likely to cause unwarranted concern and confusion among your constituents, and in particular among teachers, parents and pupils.

We will be announcing our detailed proposals for a new national funding formula for schools shortly. The national funding formula will mean that, for the first time, every pupil will attract funding to their school determined by their individual circumstances, regardless of where they are in the country or historical spending decisions. Building on the first stage of consultation, these proposals will include how the new formula will be weighted, and its impact on each local area and school. As we have not yet published our proposals, they are not reflected in the NUT and ATL's calculations. Instead, they have based their calculations on a formula that has been devised by the f40 campaign group. Naturally, the Government will not simply be adopting the f40's – or any other group's – proposals. The funding predictions NUT and ATL have provided are therefore, as they themselves admit, purely speculative.

This year, the core schools budget will be over £40 billion – the highest on record. In the current Spending Review period it is protected in real terms overall. This enables a per pupil protection for the dedicated schools grant, which will mean this grant rises throughout this Parliament as pupil numbers increase. The protection also includes the pupil premium, which will be maintained at the current rates, so that we can continue to provide extra support for our most disadvantaged children. For 2017-18 we have already confirmed that no area will see a cash reduction in their per pupil schools funding, or in their overall funding for pupils with high needs. By ignoring the additional funding that will come to schools as pupil numbers increase, the NUT and ATL's attempt to model each school's total budget in 2020 systematically underestimates the funding that will, in fact, be provided.

We want to help schools work efficiently and ensure their budgets deliver the best value from taxpayers' money. This is not about – as the NUT and ATL imply – dismissing teachers. We have provided a range of information, [guidance and tools to support schools](#), including on how they can save money through better procurement and find savings in spending on back office activities.

Introducing a national funding formula will be a significant reform and we are committed to consulting widely before introducing change. I hope you will encourage teachers, parents, and other interested parties in your area to contribute their views when we put forward our

proposals for consultation later this year. In the meantime, I hope you will understand that the NUT and ATL's campaign seriously misrepresents the impact that the national funding formula will have.

With best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Gibb". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards