

TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL

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The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AA

22nd June 2017

Dear Prime Minister,

Stage 2 Consultation on Fair Funding for Schools

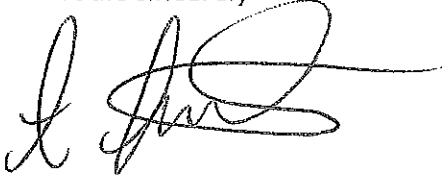
The Councillors of Totnes and the Governors of its schools are extremely concerned about the impact of the proposed Fair Funding for Schools as set out in the Stage 2 consultation document.

Whilst in 2015 Devon County Council won an extra £1.6 million a year for its schools, the funding level per pupil across Devon is still £290 less than the national average. The proposals for the funding formula set out in the Stage 2 consultation for the new national funding system would see the children educated in Totnes schools lose out even more. From the consultation details provided to date, schools in Totnes assess the impact of the Fair Funding system to disadvantage its school/children by between £400-500 per pupil by 2022. For The Grove School, they predict that by 2020 they will have 315 children in primary education – the current number is 240. The Grove School's Head Teacher has commented that trying to plan a future for education to the quality they strive to provide is challenging currently in the economic climate, with more cuts leaving children without the quality support they need to achieve the standards expected of them, and that this is an extremely worrying scenario for any school to be in.

We understand that you have received a letter from f40 which was signed by the Devon County Council Cabinet Member for Children Schools and Skills, Councillor James McInnes and we support the points that f40 make. Totnes Town Council and its school would like to reiterate the point made by f40 that the formula used for funding needs to achieve fairness and not further disadvantage the children and young people in our town. We are already in a position where at KEVICC the infrastructure includes a number of old temporary classrooms and is in need of investment, and teaching posts are being cut to meet the school's budget. The town's primary

schools are already at capacity, with The Grove School's pupil numbers increasing in recent years, and St John's Primary School is undergoing building work to accommodate the significant increase in pupil numbers as a result of new homes in the area. If this funding anomaly is left unaddressed, then the situation will only worsen in future years and leave a negative legacy for many years to come.

Yours sincerely

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

Cllr Andy Simms
Chair of the People Committee

Totnes Town Council
Head Teacher of The Grove School

Copy to:

The Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for Education
Dr Sarah Woollaston MP