

January 2012

Dear xxxxx

As a parent of a child attending an Academy in Gloucestershire, I am writing to ask why a significant part of the funding for my child's education is so much less in this county than in other similar areas around the country.

According to the information on the DfE website, the 2011/12 funding for each Academy in Gloucestershire to buy in services which were previously provided by the Local Authority is £156 per pupil. This compares to Academies in Dorset who would receive £262 per pupil, Somerset £319 and Shropshire £232. It appears to me that these areas are very similar in nature to Gloucestershire so I cannot understand why there should be such a big difference.

I would appreciate answers to the following questions:

- a) Is it the case that Gloucestershire spends so much less on its services for education than other similar counties and if so should central Government not investigate this?
- b) Or – is it the case that differences in the way in which the data is collected from various authorities have led to these variations?

Given the significant differences for the lower funded local authority areas, can I suggest that central Government introduces a minimum level for the central services grant, perhaps at £250 per pupil reflecting the average for the lowest funded authorities. I believe this is in line with the Government's current proposals to introduce a fixed level of central services funding for all Academies under a national funding formula from 2013.

I look forward to receiving answers to these questions and some assurance that this unfairness which will be impacting on quality of the education that my child receives will not continue into 2012/13.

Yours sincerely

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