

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LN/01268/25

Cllr Lis Burnett
Education and Deputy Spokesperson
WLGA

1 April 2026

Dear Cllr Lis Burnett,

Thank you for your letter of 30 October from yourself and Darren Price regarding the WLGA report 'The State of Education in Wales: Challenges, Pressures and Towards Sustainability'. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. I had intended that we would discuss the report at our meeting, which was then postponed. However, I welcomed the opportunity to meet recently.

As you'll be aware, following the Draft Budget for 2026-27, which was published on 3 November, an agreement was reached securing almost £300m of additional investment in Wales' public service.

The agreement has been reflected in the Final Budget, which was published on 20 January. The budget agreement includes additional funding of £112.8m for local government in 2026-27 on top of the £6.4bn announced in the provisional Local Government Settlement at the end of November. This means that overall, there is a 4.5% increase to the Local Government Settlement, and all local authorities will receive increases above 4%. The additional funding will support delivery of key services, including schools.

I want to provide as much funding as possible to raise school standards and support our learners to thrive, which is why I have prioritised funding for schools within my portfolio budgets.

The Local Authority Education Grant (LAEG) has provided over £407m in 2025-26. For 2026-27, £418.3m will also be provided through the LAEG, with this not including the extra money we give to local authorities for our demand-led schemes including Universal Primary Free School Meals and School Essentials Grant.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Funding provided through the Education MEG is in addition to increases to the Local Government Settlement, which recognises the powerful points that local authority partners and our schools have made around pressures to deliver upon the statutory responsibility for ALN and wider education provision.

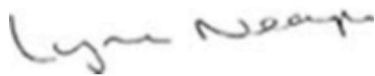
The report highlights evidence of increased demand-led pressures on the education budgets, with ALN pressures reported to account for just over a quarter of school pressures in 2026-27. In recognition of this, we are continuing to increase investment in ALN.

We have provided more than £150m revenue to local authorities and schools to support ALN implementation since 2020, as well as more than £170m of capital funding to improve facilities and infrastructure for learners over the past 5 years.

On 14 October I announced an additional £8.2m in-year funding for ALN to be allocated to improve consistent delivery of ALN Reform in schools and colleges. This will bring the additional funding that we provide for ALN through the LAEG to £37m in 2025-26. Subsequent to our recent meeting I have allocated a further £1.035m for ALNCo pay in 26/27 to alleviate the pressures we discussed.

I remain very alive to the concerns around school funding, and I will continue to do all that I can to ensure funding is prioritised to support schools. I look forward to discussing these matters at our next meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS
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Cabinet Secretary for Education