



Department
for Education

Consultation Response Form

Consultation closing date: 19 June 2014
Your comments must reach us by that date

Savings to the Education Services Grant for 2015-16

If you would prefer to respond online to this consultation please use the following link: www.education.gov.uk/consultations

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for confidentiality:	

Name:	
Please tick if you are responding on behalf of your organisation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of Organisation (if applicable):	
Address:	

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](#) page.

Please mark the box the best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> Maintained schools	<input type="checkbox"/> Academies	<input type="checkbox"/> Local authorities
<input type="checkbox"/> Governors	<input type="checkbox"/> Bursars	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents
<input type="checkbox"/> School forums	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade union organisations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Please Specify:

In responding to the questions in this consultation, we ask you to pay particular attention to any potential impacts on the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (sex, race, disability, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment).

School Improvement

- 1 a) How could the clarification of the role of local authorities in school improvement in Section 4.2 help local authorities to make savings?

Comments:

- 1 b) Is further clarification or guidance from the Department on the role of the local authority in school improvement needed in order to have a clear set of expectations?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

- 1 c) In addition to the examples set out in Section 3.2 of the consultation document, how else could local authorities provide school improvement more efficiently?

Comments:

- 1 d) What level of saving is it possible for your local authority to make on school improvement? If cost pressures on school improvement have changed recently, please describe below.

Comments:

- 1 e) If your local authority's expenditure is above the median (£31 per pupil) for this service, can you help us understand why this is?

Comments:

- 1 f) What would prevent your local authority from reducing costs to match the lowest spending 25% of local authorities (up to £19 per pupil)?

Comments:

Statutory and regulatory duties

2 a) Which statutory and regulatory duties require greater clarification or guidance?

Comments:

2 b) In addition to the methods set out in the case studies in Section 3.2, how else could local authorities fulfil statutory and regulatory duties more efficiently?

Comments:

2 c) What level of saving is it possible for local authorities to make on statutory and regulatory duties? If cost pressures on statutory and regulatory duties have changed recently, please describe below.

Comments:

2 d) Do you think that the Department needs to change its expectations of local authorities with regard to statutory and regulatory duties in order for savings to be realised? If so, how?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

2 e) If your authority's expenditure is above the median (£48 per pupil) for this service, can you help us understand why this is?

Comments:

2 f) What would prevent your local authority from reducing costs to match the lowest spending 25% of local authorities (-£6¹ to £28)?

Comments:

Education welfare services

3 a) Why do you think there is such significant variation in spending on education welfare?

Comments:

¹ We do not know at this stage why this local authority has recorded a negative planned expenditure on this service and we will explore this during the consultation period.

3 b) How do you think local authorities could provide this service more efficiently?

Comments:

3 c) What level of saving could your local authority make to education welfare? If cost pressures on education welfare have changed recently, please describe below.

Comments:

3 d) Is further clarification or guidance from the Department needed about our expectations in respect of education welfare services? If so, why?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

3 e) If your authority's expenditure is above the median (£14 per pupil) for this service, can you help us understand why this is?

Comments:

3 f) What would prevent your local authority from reducing costs to match the lowest spending 25% of local authorities (£0 to £9)?

Comments:

3 g) Do you agree that the duties required for this service are fulfilled by local authorities, and therefore should be covered by the local authority retained duties funding (set out in Section 6)? If not, which aspects do academies hold responsibility for and should therefore be paid for by the standard ESG rate?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

Central support services

- 4 a) Are there any reasons why local authority expenditure on central support services could not be significantly reduced, if not stopped altogether? Please give details below.

Comments:

4 b) If you do not think this could be stopped altogether, how much of a saving could local authorities make to these services? If cost pressures on central support services have changed recently, please describe below.

Comments:

4 c) Is further clarification or guidance from the Department needed in order to have a clear set of expectations? If so, why?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

4 d) If your authority's expenditure is above the median (£6 per pupil) for this service, can you help us understand why this is?

Comments:

4 e) What would prevent your local authority from reducing costs to match the lowest spending 25% of local authorities (-£10 to £1)?

Comments:

Asset management

5 a) Which services are your local authority funding under the 'Asset Management' heading?

Comments:

5 b) Could your local authority join up asset management relating to education with asset management across all local authority services, if this is not already happening?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

5 c) Are there reasons why local authority expenditure on asset management, under the standard ESG rate, could not be significantly reduced if not stopped altogether? If cost pressures on asset management have changed recently, please describe below.

Comments:

5 d) If you do not think this could be stopped altogether, how much could local authorities save by delivering this service in a different way?

Comments:

5 e) Is further clarification or guidance from the Department needed in order to have a clear set of expectations? If so, why?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

5 f) If your authority's expenditure is above the median (£7 per pupil) for this service, can you help us understand why this is?

Comments:

5 g) What would prevent your local authority from reducing costs to match the lowest spending 25% of local authorities (-£1² to £3)?

Comments:

Premature retirement costs/ redundancy costs (new provisions)

6 a) Are there any reasons why schools could not take financial responsibility for redundancies? Please give details below.

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

² We do not know at this stage why this local authority has recorded a negative planned expenditure on this service and we will explore this during the consultation period.

6 b) If you are a local authority that is funding early retirement, why are you not requiring schools to do so?

Comments:

6 c) If your authority's expenditure is above the median (£0 per pupil) for this service, can you help us understand why you are spending that amount and what prevents you from reducing your expenditure to £0?

Comments:

Therapies and other health-related services

7 a) Given the high needs budget that local authorities have, and the improved joint working between health and education authorities which should result from the provisions within the Children and Families Bill, are there any reasons why funding for therapies and other health-related services should continue from ESG? If cost pressures on therapies and other health-related services have changed recently, please describe below.

Comments:

7 b) Is there a need for further clarification or guidance from the Department about what local authorities are expected to provide in terms of therapies and other health-related services. If so, why?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

7 c) If your authority's expenditure is above the median (£0 per pupil) for this service, can you help us understand why you are spending that amount and what prevents you from reducing your expenditure to £0?

Comments:

Monitoring National Curriculum assessment

8 a) What level of savings could local authorities make to this service?

Comments:

8 b) If cost pressures on monitoring national curriculum have changed recently, please describe below.

Comments:

8 c) Is further clarification or guidance from the Department needed in order to have a clear set of expectations? If so, why?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

8 d) Given that some local authorities are charging for this service and not incurring any net expenditure, is this something your local authority could do? If not, please help us understand why.

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

How the savings will affect academies

- 9 a) What level of saving could your academy make by adopting some of the strategies we have set out in Section 5 of the consultation document?

Comments:

- 9 b) Can you provide any additional examples of methods that academies can use to increase value for money from the ESG funding?

Comments:

9 c) What would be the consequences of a less generous protection in 2015/16 for academies against losses in ESG than the protection offered in 2014/15?

Comments:

9 d) What would be the consequences of reducing the academies rate of ESG to the local authority rate in 2015/16?

Comments:

The local authority retained duties funding

10 a) What further savings could your local authority make from:

- i) education welfare services;
- ii) asset management; and
- iii) statutory and regulatory duties

As covered by the local authorities retained duties funding?

If cost pressures on the local authority retained duties have changed recently, please describe below.

Comments:

10 b) Is further clarification or guidance about these duties from the Department needed in order to have a clear set of expectations? If so, why?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply.	<input type="checkbox"/>
E-mail address for acknowledgement:	

Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, please confirm below if you would be willing to be contacted again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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All DfE public consultations are required to meet the Cabinet Office [Principles on Consultation](#)

The key Consultation Principles are:

- departments will follow a range of timescales rather than defaulting to a 12-week period, particularly where extensive engagement has occurred before

- departments will need to give more thought to how they engage with and use real discussion with affected parties and experts as well as the expertise of civil service learning to make well informed decisions
- departments should explain what responses they have received and how these have been used in formulating policy
- consultation should be 'digital by default', but other forms should be used where these are needed to reach the groups affected by a policy
- the principles of the Compact between government and the voluntary and community sector will continue to be respected.

If you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Aileen Shaw, DfE Consultation Coordinator, tel: 0370 000 2288 / email: aileen.shaw@education.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

Completed responses should be sent to the address shown below by 19 June 2014

Send by post to: Emily Barbour, Funding Policy Unit, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT

Send by e-mail to: esg.CONULTATION.education.gsi.gov.uk