



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Our reference: BS33821

30 October 2024

Dear Chancellor,

Re: Autumn Budget SEN funding announcement

Following the publication of the Budget today, I welcome the additional investment announced for schools, an issue I have been raising since first elected in 2019. However, having reviewed the detail in the Budget document, following your Budget Speech, I would be grateful for clarity on a number of key areas.

In your speech you stated:

"I am increasing the core schools budget by £2.3 billion pounds next year to support our pledge to hire thousands more teachers into key subjects. So that our young people can develop the skills that they need for the future I am providing an additional £300 million for further education. And finally, this Government is committed to reforming Special Educational Needs provision to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children, and to ensure the system is financially sustainable. To support that work, I am today providing a £1 billion uplift in funding, a 6% real terms increase from this year."

This implies the funding announced for SEN funding is in addition to the core schools funding, however the Budget document published states the measures announced mean *"Increasing funding for the core schools budget by £2.3 billion, increasing per pupil funding in real terms. **£1 billion of this funding** will go towards supporting the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system."*

In addition, SEN funding is further referenced under the tariffs and tax changes section of the document, which states: *"Special Education Needs and Disabilities: Reduction in Local Authority SEND deficits as a result of additional DEL funding"*

Given the importance of ensuring adequate funding for schools and SEN services, I would be grateful if you could provide urgent clarification on the following points:

- Is the £1bn announced for SEN funding in addition to the £2.3bn core schools funding, as announced in your Speech?
- Is the reference under tariffs and charges to this same funding, or additional funding earmarked to reduce local authority SEN debt?
- How much of the £1bn is earmarked for the provision of additional SEN services (rather than debt payments, increased costs or administrative charges)
- What impact will this have on the SEN Budget and services in Surrey?

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours ever,

BEN SPENCER

Dr Ben Spencer MP
Runnymede and Weybridge