

**Dirprwy Arweinydd y Cyngor • Deputy Council Leader**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg a Phlant a Phobl Ifanc •**  
**Cabinet Member for Education and Children & Young People**  
Cynghorydd / Councillor Sian Gwenllian

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: **Cyng. Sian Gwenllian**  
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Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **SG/AAS**  
Eich Cyf / Your Ref:



02 December 2013

Huw Lewis AM  
Minister for Education and Skills  
Llywodraeth Cymru  
Bae Caerdydd  
CAERDYDD  
CF99 INA

Dear Huw Lewis

**Re: Local Authority Sixth Form Indicative Funding 2014-15 – Subject to formal offer of grant funding**

Further to your letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013, I regret to inform you that the proposals contained therein have caused considerable disquiet and anxiety amongst the county's secondary school head teachers as a result of the scale of the funding reduction and the potential impact on current 6<sup>th</sup> form pupils.

Following receipt of the indicative grant allocation for 2014/15 we find that Gwynedd post 16 Schools face a cash reduction of £288,358 (8.6%), equivalent to a real terms reduction of £321,716 (9.6%).

For the following reasons we respectfully request that you consider improving the 10% local authority funding reduction cap that you already have in place :

1. Schools have not received any prior indicative financial information of the effect of the new funding system and its methodology. We have therefore been unable to plan for this significant and unexpected financial reduction. Current school funding legislation includes a duty for Local Authorities to provide "...an estimate of the schools budget shares for the following two funding periods...", this has not been received for the post 16 grant.
2. Pupil numbers at Gwynedd School 6th Forms in September 2009 714, September 2010 729, and October 2013 718 and predicted to be 812 in September 2014. The methodology adopted to feed the new funding system only provides funding for 685 pupils for the financial year 2014/15, significantly less than the current programme numbers and predicted programme numbers for September 2014. We question the rationale in the methodology of including predicted pupil number reductions for September 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the four year average used. This results in accelerating grant reduction in advance of a predicted reduction in pupil numbers. It does not appear ethical that today's pupils receive less funding because of predicted future pupil number reductions. Moving from the principle of funding the next financial year 100% based on current provision, that is the actual number and current study programmes, to the principle of funding based upon crude and uncertain predicted numbers and study programmes over the next three years is unreasonable. This leads to a significant difference in funding to existing provision at Local Authority level and especially individual school level.
3. The reduction is contrary to Wales Government's Education Funding Commitment.
4. Schools are committed to continuing the education provision currently provided for year 12 pupils who will transfer to year 13 in September 2014.
5. Although the distribution of the post 16 grant to individual schools is a matter for the Local Authority, an across the board distribution option would lead to a 9.6% real terms cut for all schools, whereas

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another logical distribution option would lead to real term cuts for the three worst hit individual schools of £191,081 (27.5%), £57,544 (20.8%) and £94,519 (10.0%).

There is a significant risk that the implementation of such significant reductions in a rushed manner will be extremely detrimental to the quality of education for these pupils. The way to ensure that we do not face such catastrophic consequences is to manage the reduction in a reasonable and prudent manner and we would therefore urge you to review the funding cap as a matter of urgency. Our request is for an improved local authority funding cap of 5% or less which, if approved, would be a welcome funding increase. However some schools would still face a significant financial reduction. Time is certainly against us and we would appreciate a prompt response which we can share with Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors.


Yours faithfully



**Cyng. Sian Gwennllian**  
**Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for**  
**Education and Children & Young People**




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**Headteacher - Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen**



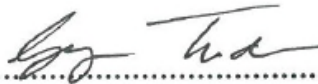
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**Headteacher - Ysgol Friars**



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**Headteacher - Ysgol Brynrefail**




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**Headteacher - Ysgol Y Berwyn**



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**Headteacher - Ysgol Tryfan**



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**Headteacher - Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen**



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**Headteacher - Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle**