

Pennaeth Addysg Head of Education

Dewi R. Jones

Item 8 – appendix 1

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: **Dewi R Jones**
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To headteachers and chairpersons of school governors in Gwynedd

Dear Headteacher and Chair of Governors

School Balances Instruction Scheme Review

You will be aware of the entitlement delegated to me, namely to instruct Governing Bodies how to spend an element of their balances. Failure to act in accordance with instructions would lead to having to reimburse the Education Service centrally.

The current scheme enables me to consider implementing the right to issue instructions where primary balances exceed £50,000 and 8%, and in the secondary and special sector in instances where balances exceed £100,000 and over 8%. The legislation on this matter refers to the specific financial threshold of £50,000/£100,000 only i.e. there is no reference to **percentage** threshold, therefore our current scheme is much less rigid than the legislation.

A high level of school balances at a National level and in Gwynedd still receives attention at several levels, including from the Minister for Education, parents/the public, elected members of Gwynedd Council etc.

During the meeting held on 19 November 2013, the Forum unanimously decided to consult on holding a review of the current scheme as follows:

- **Head of Education to consider implementing the right to instruct schools how to spend an element of their balances where balances exceed 5% or £50,000 (Primary) / £100,000 (Secondary and Special) whichever is the lowest.**

If the above-mentioned scheme is to be established, it will require the approval of every school and **Appendix A** should be returned by no later than the end of the day, 23 May 2014.

I note that the Cabinet Member for Education and myself support the amended scheme.

I will present full comments to the Schools Budget Forum at their meeting to be held in June 2014.

For your information, here is the link to Schools Budget Forum on the internet.

http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/gwy_doc.asp?cat=8068&doc=29857&Language=2&p=1&c=1

Yours sincerely

Dewi R Jones

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Head of Education

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