



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer

12th November 2022

Dear Jeremy,

We understand from the media and your various speeches that we are to expect significant cuts to public expenditure in your Autumn Statement on 17th November.

We appreciate the need for sound money and fiscal responsibility, however we believe these cuts should be made within a framework of priorities rather than across the board.

In particular, we believe it would be indefensible to cut education funding. On the contrary, we would urge you to invest more in the schools' budget, particularly given the impact of the pandemic on children and their education. It would not be morally right to cut education at a time when so many children, teachers and staff are still working so hard to rectify the damage caused by Covid 19. This damage is reflected most sharply in the attainment gap for disadvantaged pupils, which is at its widest in a decade.

The current pressure on the sector is significant and real. General inflation, increased energy costs and an unfunded pay award, are having a severe impact. Many schools and colleges have already been forced to examine their staffing levels and non-core activities. We understand that this pressure amounts to approximately £2 billion a year across the sector. If you would like examples of savings elsewhere we believe could be made to allow this investment, we would be happy to work with you to find them.

We would also remind you that we have made explicit commitments to return schools funding to 2010 levels in real terms, and to a teacher starting salary of £30,000.

We know that you are having to make difficult choices over the next few days. Nonetheless, protecting and enhancing education funding is not, we believe, a hard decision to make. We owe it to the children of our country to put them first even in times of financial hardship, as so many families already do every day.

Yours ever,

The Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP
Jonathan Gullis MP
Kelly Tollhurst MP
Andrea Jenkyns MP
The Rt Hon Vicky Ford MP
Mark Jenkinson MP
Damien Moore MP
Craig Whittaker MP
The Rt Hon Steve McPartland MP
The Rt Hon Esther McVey MP
The Rt Hon Sir Gregory Knight MP
Jill Mortimer MP
The Rt Hon Sir Robert Buckland MP
Andy Carter MP

The Rt Hon Wendy Morton MP
Tim Loughton MP
Royston Smith MP
Robert Courts MP
The Rt Hon Sir Desmond Swayne MP
The Rt Hon Nadine Dorries MP
The Rt Hon Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown MP
Andrew Lewer MP
Robin Walker MP
Ben Bradley MP
Lia Nici MP
The Rt Hon Shailesh Vara MP
Jonathan Lord MP