

12<sup>th</sup> December 2011

David Bell  
Permanent Secretary  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

Dear David


I would like to bring to your attention the significant difficulties Harrow Council has in striving to maintain our high standards and comply with statutory requirements in the establishment of school places in light of basic need pressures in London.

In the recent funding announcement for the additional basic need, Harrow was in the bottom four of all London boroughs and only received £120,000 compared to some of our neighbours who received over £20,000,000. We understand that there maybe greater pressures in neighbouring boroughs which have significant under-capacity which we been able to successfully manage so far. However, in light of increasing pressures which are projected to continue in the coming years, we are currently embarking upon the permanent expansions of eleven schools which will cost a significant sum, particularly in the next two years. We feel that the latest allocation was extremely disproportionate: we do not have clarity around the formula for how the amount was decided.

We have significant concerns that the imminent yearly allocation may follow the same pattern, and have given a detailed account of why we believe this would be flawed in the attached letter sent to Stuart Miller of the Central Capital Unit earlier this week.

We trust that Mr Miller will carefully consider the contents of the letter and understand how essential it is that Harrow receives a more equitable share of the yearly basic need allocation which reflects the needs we have demonstrated in the letter, and indeed of allocations going forward. However, we would also like your reassurance that the funding allocation methods for the imminent allocation and future allocations will consider the proportionate costs of solutions to the problems that each local authority face.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Catherine Doran'.

**Catherine Doran**  
**Corporate Director of Children's Services**

Cc Stuart Miller, DfE  
Amanda Henton, Head of Capital Projects, Harrow Council