

Rt Hon Michael Gove  
Secretary of State for Education  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

20<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Dear Secretary of State

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with yourself and the Minister of State for Skills and Enterprise to share the concern we have around the low and falling rates of funding for 16-19 education. We represent the complete spectrum of institutions providing state funded 16-19 education. Our jointly held concern is that much 16-19 provision cannot be sustained at future funding levels and further that your ambitious policy intentions will not be realized.

As identified in the meeting, our priority is that you at least hold funding levels at their current value into 2016/2017, taking account of inflationary cost pressures (increases in employers pension contributions, national insurance and non-pay inflation, amounting to a 4% cost increase). Holding funding at current levels, and sustaining 'formula protection funding', will avoid a potential cliff edge fall in funding in 2016/2017. The looming cliff edge fall in funding in 2016/2017 would jeopardize the financial viability of many schools and colleges and in the process threaten the life chances of very many young people.

Further, we asked that you instigate a review to determine the resources needed to provide good and financially viable 16-19 education. Holding off funding reductions in the immediate future would give some time for a review to take place. Such a review could bring forward examples of best practice in providing high quality education most efficiently. It would help to determine the realistic costs of meeting the aspiration we share, for young people to be highly successful in their studies and in their subsequent careers.

We would welcome the opportunity to inform a review with the expertise we can call upon from across schools and colleges.

Finally, it is perhaps worth reiterating that we welcome your introduction of 'study programmes' and the emphasis that they place upon raising the attainment of each individual. However, we fear that without consideration of 16-19 funding levels this welcome development may flounder.

Yours sincerely



Brian Lightman, General Secretary,  
Association of School and College  
Leaders



Nick Weller, Chair,  
Independent Academies  
Association



Martin Doel, Chief Executive,  
Association of Colleges



David Igoe, Chief Executive,  
Sixth Form Colleges  
Association



Tom Clark, Chairman, Freedom  
and Autonomy for Schools-  
National Association



Nick Lewis, General Secretary  
Principals Professional Council

This letter has been copied to the Rt Hon Matthew Hancock, Minister of State for Skills and Enterprise.