



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Our Ref: EP

05/02/2019

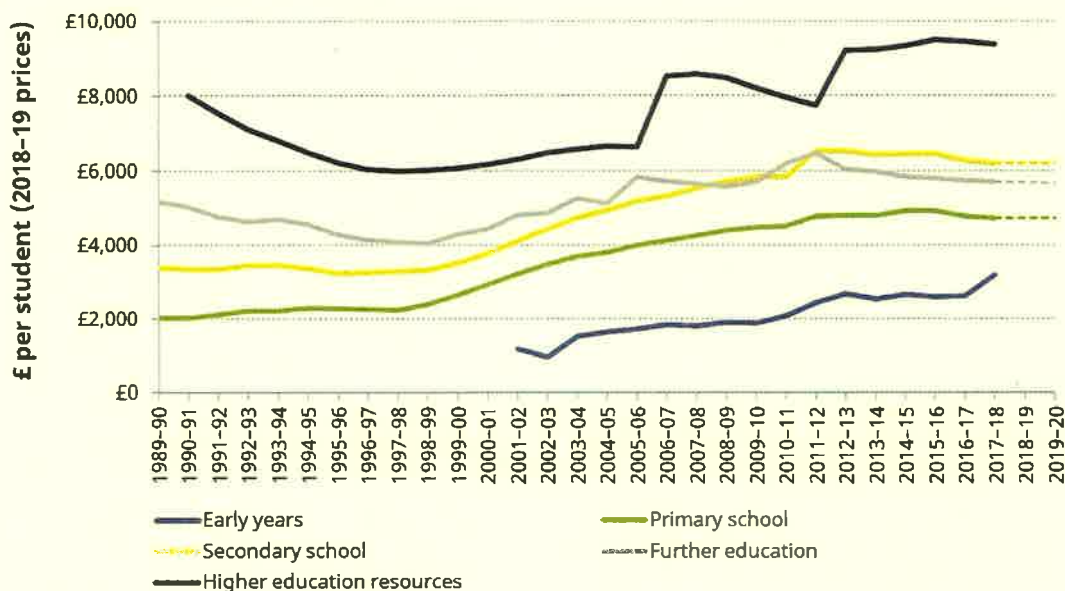
**Further Education funding**

*Dear Chancellor,*

Following the Government's announcement of the 2019 Spending Review, we write to you on behalf of 164 colleagues across the House for your support in increasing Further Education (FE) funding in the next Spending Review this spring.

Over the last ten years, FE has been the Cinderella of education spending; for while government policy has protected the incomes of schools and universities, colleges have been dealt an average funding cut of 30% (source: Association of Colleges), and costs have increased significantly.

The chart below shows spending per student p.a. at different stages of education. Further Education is the only stage of education to have received a permanent drop in funding per student during the last eight years.



Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies

We believe this constraint on FE resources has had an impact on the teaching, courses and above all opportunities for young people and skills of all ages. Currently, the UK ranks poorly in the OECD skills comparison - we are in the bottom quartile for Level 4 & 5 technical skills, including NVQs and HNCs (source: OECD). In addition, England has comparatively poor levels of basic skills – 50% of adults are only at or below the level of numeracy expected of an 11 year old. If the UK is to compete successfully post-Brexit (“Global Britain”), in an economy which keeps pace with technological and demographic changes, it is critical that our current and future workforce has the skills employers need. We believe FE colleges have a key role to play in this drive for more skills and working with employers to create courses with direct benefits. They also make a significant contribution in promoting the Government’s social mobility agenda.

Given the government’s focus on closing the nation’s productivity gap and the fact that education/ training is now legally compulsory up to the age of 18, we are concerned that a lack of funding for over 16 year olds in FE risks failing to raise productivity too. Meanwhile, a lack of investment in the adult education budget means there are fewer people skilled in professions vital for our economic and social success now and in the future. According to the University and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA), over the last ten years, qualifications for health and social care workers fell from 692,000 to 219,000 - a drop of 68%. So ensuring there are enough skilled people in work to deliver the country’s industrial strategy must remain a priority. We share the view of Amanda Spielman, Ofsted’s Chief Inspector, at the launch of the Ofsted annual report in December, who said that the sector will continue to struggle without an increase in the base rate funding for this age group.

We would be delighted to explain more in a meeting with you; and hope this will highlight a strong view in Parliament that FE budgets deserve an above inflation increase in 2019-20, and that there is a clear economic benefit from doing so.

*Yours ever,*

*Richard Graham* *Nic Dakin*

**Richard Graham MP - Gloucester**

**Nic Dakin MP- Scunthorpe**

**Alex Chalk MP – Cheltenham**

**Wes Streeting MP – Ilford North**

**Ben Bradley MP – Mansfield**

**Diana Johnson MP - Kingston upon Hull North**

**Philip Davies MP – Shipley**

**Anna Turley MP - Redcar**

**Mark Garnier MP - Wyre Forest**

**Melanie Onn MP - Great Grimsby**

**Sir Roger Gale MP – North Thanet**

**Louise Haigh MP - Sheffield, Heeley**

**Robert Courts MP – Witney**

**Dan Jarvis MP - Barnsley Central**

**Peter Aldous MP** – Waveney                      **Jack Dromey MP** - Birmingham, Erdington  
**Andrea Jenkyns MP** - Morley & Outwood   **Christian Matheson MP** - City of Chester  
**William Wragg MP** - Hazel Grove                **Lillian Greenwood MP** - Nottingham South  
**Damien Moore MP** – Southport                    **Lisa Nandy MP** - Wigan  
**Sir Nicholas Soames MP** - Mid Sussex        **Gareth Thomas MP** - Harrow West  
**Martin Vickers MP** – Cleethorpes                **Karl Turner MP** – Kingston upon Hull East  
**Jeremy Lefroy MP** – Stafford                      **Jeff Smith MP** - Manchester, Withington  
**Richard Drax MP** – South Dorset                **Stephen Timms MP** - East Ham  
**Mark Prisk FRICS MP** - Hertford & Stortford **Lucy Powell MP** - Manchester Central  
**Maria Caulfield MP** – Lewes                      **Ruth Cadbury MP** – Brentford & Isleworth  
**Dr Sarah Wollaston MP** – Totnes                **Chi Onwurah MP** – Newcastle Upon Tyne  
**Will Quince MP** – Colchester                    **Alex Sobel MP** - Leeds North West  
**Charlie Elphicke MP** – Dover                      **Vernon Coaker MP** - Gedling  
**Scott Mann MP** - North Cornwall                **Daniel Zeichner MP** - Cambridge  
**Neil O’Brien MP** – Harborough                    **Alex Cunningham MP** - Stockton North  
**Dr Julian Lewis MP** - New Forest East        **Jonathan Reynolds MP** – Stalybridge & Hyde  
**Laurence Robertson MP** - Tewkesbury        **Stephen Kinnock MP** – Aberavon  
**Neil Parish MP** - Tiverton and Honiton        **Paul Blomfield MP** - Sheffield Central  
  
**Dame Caroline Spelman MP** – Meriden        **Dr Alan Whitehead MP** - Southampton, Test  
  
**Andrew Percy MP** – Brigg and Goole        **Shabana Mahmood MP** - Birmingham, Ladywood  
  
**Boris Johnson MP** – Uxbridge & South Ruislip **Andy Slaughter MP** – Hammersmith  
  
**Philip Dunne MP** – Ludlow                        **Rosie Duffield MP** - Canterbury  
  
**Sir Hugo Swire MP** – East Devon                **Seema Malhotra MP** - Feltham and Heston  
  
**Marcus Jones MP** – Nuneaton                    **Rushanara Ali MP** - Bethnal Green & Bow  
  
**Sir Robert Syms MP** – Poole                        **Liz Twist MP** – Blaydon  
  
**Sir Henry Bellingham MP** - North West Norfolk **Clive Efford MP** - Eltham  
  
**Maria Miller MP** – Basingstoke                **Luke Pollard MP** – Plymouth, Sutton & Devonport  
  
**Julian Sturdy MP** - York Outer        **Sharon Hodgson MP** – Washington & Sunderland West  
  
**Andrew Selous MP** - South West Bedfordshire **Karyn Smith MP** - Bristol South  
  
**Stephen Metcalfe MP** - South Basildon & East Thurrock **Kate Hollern MP** – Blackburn

**Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP** – The Cotswolds **Karen Buck MP** – Westminster North  
**Bim Afolami MP** – Hitchin & Harpenden **Richard Burden MP** - Birmingham, Northfield  
**Damian Collins MP** – Folkestone and Hythe **Liam Byrne MP** - Birmingham, Hodge Hill  
**Jacob Rees-Mogg MP** – North East Somerset **Helen Goodman MP** – Bishop Auckland  
**Simon Hart MP** – Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire **Roberta Blackman-Woods MP** - Durham  
**Daniel Kawczynski MP** - Shrewsbury and Atcham **Caroline Lucas MP** - Brighton, Pavilion  
**Andrew Lewer MBE MP** – Northampton South **Wera Hobhouse MP** – Bath  
**Mark Menzies MP** - Fylde **Sir Vince Cable MP** – Twickenham  
**Damian Green MP** – Ashford **Stephen Twigg MP** - Liverpool, West Derby  
**Anne Marie Morris MP** – Newton Abbot **Emma Lewell-Buck MP** - South Shields  
**Pauline Latham OBE MP** - Mid Derbyshire **Thelma Walker MP** - Colne Valley  
**James Gray MP** – North Wiltshire **Eleanor Smith MP** – Wolverhampton South West  
**Zac Goldsmith MP** – Richmond Park **Stella Creasy MP** – Walthamstow  
**Ian Liddell-Grainger MP** – Bridgwater & West Somerset **Mohammad Yasin MP** – Bedford  
**Gordon Henderson MP** – Sittingbourne & Sheppey **Alison McGovern MP** – Wirral South  
**Chris Green MP** – Bolton West **Anneliese Dodds MP** – Oxford East  
**Mark Pawsey MP** – Rugby **Paul Williams MP** – Stockton South  
**Anne Main MP** - St Albans **Afzal Khan MP** – Manchester, Gorton  
**Conor Burns MP** - Bournemouth West **Matt Western MP** – Warwick and Leamington  
**Andrew Griffiths MP** - Burton and Uttoxeter **Rosie Cooper MP** – West Lancashire  
**Anna Soubry MP** – Broxtowe **Bambos Charalambous MP** – Enfield, Southgate  
**Robert Halfon MP** – Harlow **Marsha De Cordova MP** – Battersea  
**Giles Watling MP** – Clacton **Yasmin Qureshi MP** – Bolton South East  
**Crispin Blunt MP** – Reigate **Grahame Morris MP** – Easington

**Ed Stewart MP** – Beckenham

**Julie Cooper MP** – Burnley

**Marcus Fysh MP** – Yeovil

**Alex Norris MP** – Nottingham North

**Tracey Crouch MP** – Chatham & Aylesford **Thangam Debbonaire MP** – Bristol West

**Henry Smith MP** – Crawley

**Jared O'Mara MP** – Sheffield, Hallam

**Sir Bill Cash MP** – Stone

**Jack Dromey MP** – Birmingham, Erdington

**Sheryll Murray MP** – South East Cornwall **Naz Shah MP** – Bradford West

**Nigel Mills MP** – Amber Valley

**Vicky Foxcroft MP** – Lewisham, Deptford

**Sir Mike Penning MP** – Hemel Hempstead **Gill Furniss MP** – Sheffield, Brightside, and Hillsborough

**Craig Mackinlay MP** – South Thanet

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP** – Slough

**Sir Bernard Jenkin MP** – Harwich & North Essex **Faisal Rashid MP** - Warrington South

**Keith Simpson MP** – Broadland

**Catherine West MP** – Hornsey & Wood Green

**Andrew Bridgen MP** – North West Leicestershire **Yvonne Fovargue MP** – Makerfield

**Nadine Dorries MP** – Mid Bedfordshire

**Steve McCabe MP** – Birmingham, Selly Oak

**Steve Double MP** - St Austell & Newquay

**Mary Glendon MP** – North Tyneside

**Eddie Hughes MP** – Walsall North

**Royston Smith MP** – Southampton, Itchen

**Nick Boles MP** - Grantham and Stamford

**Antoinette Sandbach MP** – Eddisbury

**Heidi Allen MP** - South Cambridgeshire

**Dr Dan Poulter** – Central Suffolk & North Ipswich

**Gillian Keegan MP** – Chichester

**Iain Duncan Smith MP** - Chingford and Woodford Green

**Anne Marie Trevelyan MP** - Berwick-upon-Tweed

**Rebecca Pow MP** – Taunton Deane

**James Heappey MP** – Wells

**David Tredinnick MP – Bosworth**

**Michael Tomlinson MP – Mid Dorset and North Poole**

**Kevin Hollinrake MP - Thirsk and Malton**