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Mike Corbett
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Our Reference: 202600544054
Your Reference: SEND/ASN Funding

9 November 2026

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter and for sharing details of the additional SEND funding being provided by the UK Government in England and Wales. I appreciate your continued engagement on the important issue of supporting children and young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN).

As you will be aware, Scotland already invests significantly in education and ASN provision. The Institute for Fiscal Studies have highlighted that school spending per pupil in Scotland was around £1,700 (or 20%) higher than in England in 2024-25. In addition, local government gross revenue expenditure on education has increased by £3.6 billion since 2006-07, representing a cash-terms increase of 76%.

Excellence and equity remain the core principles underpinning Scotland's education system. To support children and young people with ASN, the Scottish Government is investing a further £29 million this year to support ASN staff. We have also continued to provide over £11 million in funding to support pupils with complex additional support needs and services for children and families. This is in addition to the record level of expenditure by local authorities on ASN, which now stands at almost £1.1 billion.

As you will appreciate, decisions on the allocation of Scottish Government funding must be considered in the context of overall budget priorities and pressures across public services. The Autumn Budget Revision fully allocates available resource funding against existing commitments, emerging budget pressures and operational demands. Within that, additional allocations have been provided across portfolios to support key priorities, including £7.5 million for the Education portfolio to support the commitment on reducing class contact time.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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Nevertheless, I recognise the importance of ensuring that children and young people with ASN receive the support they need to succeed and will continue to consider how best to target available resources to deliver that objective.

Thank you again for sharing this information. I look forward to continuing our dialogue on these issues and to hearing further views from NASUWT as discussions on ASN provision and wider education reform progress.

Yours sincerely



MÀIRI MCALLAN

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