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Lord Watson of Invergowrie
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Dear Lord Watson,

18th

September 2019

I am writing to clarify a point made following the Oral Statement on Education Funding on 3 September.

In my response to your question, I emphasised the very significant settlement for 16-19 education, which as you know includes an extra £400 million funding in 2020-21 compared with 2019-20. I said that this was a tremendous settlement, certainly the biggest since 2010, and that officials had indicated to me that it might be the biggest since 2004.

Since then my officials have double checked the record. While it is hard to make definitive, like-for-like comparisons of spending, the data pulled together by the Institute for Fiscal Studies on real term expenditure on 16-19 education suggest that the increase in financial year 2010-11 was larger than the increase we will see in 2020-21 as a result of this announcement. So therefore, using that benchmark, this is indeed the biggest increase since 2010, but not (quite) the biggest since the increase that followed the 2004 Spending Review.

I would also like to add that following the recent announcement by the Chancellor to increase funding for 16-19 education, the new base rate in 2020/21 will be £4188, an increase of 4.7%. This, along with the other additional funding announced, means that 16 to 19 funding will increase faster in 2020-21 than for 5 to 16 school funding.

I hope this letter has been useful and I will place a copy in the House Libraries.


THEODORE AGNEW