



Baroness Barran

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/df

Lord Storey
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

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Dear Mike,

During one of our interactions on the first day of Report Stage for the Schools Bill, I committed to writing to you about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in England (Hansard, column 1469, 12 July 2022).

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is this government's flagship fund to deliver on our Levelling Up Strategy. As part of UKSPF, Multiply is the government's new programme for improving adult numeracy. The government is allocating up to £559m over the Spending Review period for Multiply, which launches in 2022 and is funded through UKSPF. Multiply will help transform the lives of adults across the United Kingdom by improving their functional numeracy skills.

Beyond Multiply, we have chosen to give local authorities more control over how UKSPF is spent, empowering local leaders to make those decisions because they know best what their area needs. UKSPF gives them the opportunity to prioritise the spending that their local authority needs.

During the debate you asked why UKSPF cannot be spent on skills until 2024/2025 (Hansard, Column 1466 12 July 2022). In England, residual European Social Fund funding continues to be in place into 2023/24, from which point new interventions will come forward via the UKSPF. Where there are pressure points, local authorities can fund people and skills activity in earlier years, if provision via the voluntary sector is at risk.

I hope this provides the information you were seeking. I will place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

BARONESS BARRAN
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE