



2020-0064705VFPO

**Vicky Ford MP**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Jack Dromey MP

By email: [jack.dromey.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jack.dromey.mp@parliament.uk)

31 December 2020

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your email of 11 November, addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, enclosing correspondence from the APPG for Nursery Schools, Nursery and Reception Classes, about the future funding of maintained nursery schools (MNS). Your email was recently passed to this department and I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area. I apologise for the delayed response.

May I begin by wishing you well in these challenging times.

You are quite right to highlight the contribution that MNS have made during the coronavirus outbreak. As you pointed out, the majority stayed open, and often took in children from other providers that had closed. I am very grateful for their dedication during such a difficult period.

We have committed to the long-term funding of MNS, and that commitment has not changed. Since you wrote to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Spending Review has been published. Early Education's submission to us in September on maintained nursery schools was a helpful contribution to the discussion, and you will have seen that we have secured a continuation of around £60 million of supplementary funding for MNS in the financial year 2021-22, as part of this Spending Review.

The department continues to consider what is required to ensure a clear, long-term picture of funding for MNS, and will say more about this soon.

However, it may help you to know that we can now confirm that, in 2021-22, we will increase the hourly funding rates for all LAs by 8p an hour for the two-year-old entitlement and, for the vast majority of areas, by 6p an hour for the three- and four-year-old entitlement. This will pay for a rate increase that is higher than the costs nurseries may face from the uplift to the national living wage in April.

We are also increasing the minimum funding floor, meaning no council can receive less than £4.44 per hour for the three- and four-year-old entitlements.

We look forward to working further with the sector on this important issue, and I thank you for re-stating the case for MNS.

Thank you for writing about this important matter. I hope this reply is useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicky Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

**Vicky Ford MP**  
**Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families**