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Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

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Ms Beatrice Merrick
Chief Executive, Early Education

Dr Mary Bousted and Mr Kevin Courtney
Joint General Secretaries, NEU

Paul Whiteman
General Secretary, NAHT

By email: Beatrice@Early-Education.org.uk

Dear Beatrice, Mary and Paul

5 February 2020

Thank you for your letter of 21 January, regarding the future funding of maintained nursery schools (MNS).

I appreciate your ongoing engagement and support as we move towards a long term solution for MNS. I am also grateful for your intelligence about local authorities' knowledge and understanding of the commitment that I gave at the end of October to fund MNS in the long term. As you suggest, it would be helpful to remind them about the statement I made. We are considering which communication channels would be the best ones to use, and we will send out a message as soon as possible.

Your other points about the funding of MNS are well made and it was good to discuss some of them when I met the NAHT Council on 3 February. You will be aware that Departmental officials have continued to work on a solution to replace what was, as you say, intended to be a temporary arrangement. I would be very happy to work with you as our thinking develops, and for us to meet at an appropriate time. Please contact my diary manager, Ms Jessica Vine, to agree the details. She can be contacted by email at: Gibb-Diary.PS@education.gov.uk or by telephone on: 020 7340 7214.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely
Nick