



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Reference: FOI 2018-0031941

31 July 2018

Sent via email – request-493241-677717b1@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Downs,

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 26 June 2018. You requested:

*Recent criteria for agreeing loan schemes to schools make it clear that 'in exceptional cases, such as those where additional funding is absolutely necessary to stabilise the school's finances and ensure minimal disruption to pupils' education, the ESFA can provide a grant' to academies.
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk...>*

I should be grateful if you could let me know the total amount of any such grants given to academy trusts in financial year 2016/17. I should also be grateful if you could supply me with a breakdown giving the names of academy trusts receiving such a grant and the amount.

My apologies for the lateness of our response. This request was caught up by the same error as your previous request (FOI 2018-0023438). We are working hard to ensure the error does not happen again.

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Further to the point in your request about when the ESFA may provide exceptional funding, the Department will always act primarily in order to protect the education of children and therefore may provide additional funding, a grant, as part of a package of support to enable a trust to achieve the financial stability that maintains educational standards.

The attached spreadsheet sets out the recipients of a grant in financial year 2016/17 to support their financial recovery. The total figure for that year was £4,125,545.36. This figure equates to 0.03% of the total GAG allocation for that year. Please note that we have categorised some of the recipients at trust level and others at academy level where the funding was directed to a specific academy, with the trusts being named as such. This is to avoid any confusion arising from where there have been subsequent rebrokerages, given the historic nature of the data.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the Department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, who were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the Department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Wilson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Wilson
Academies National Operations
Education and Skills Funding Agency