



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

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Sanctuary Buildings,  
Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT  
Tel: 0370 000 2288  
[www.education.gov.uk/efa-enquiry-form](http://www.education.gov.uk/efa-enquiry-form)

Our Reference: 2020-0002253

**25 February 2020**

By email: [request-638205-3898d1be@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-638205-3898d1be@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear J Downs

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 23 January 2020. You requested:

“According to accounts for the collapsed academy trust SchoolsCompany (year ending 31 August 2018), the Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) agreed to repay £2.6m of SCT’s £5.7m debt when Goodwin Academy, Kent, was transferred to TSAT.

But TSAT’s most recent accounts (year ending 31 August 2019) say ‘ESFA Recoverable Funding Debt taken on when Goodwin Academy (GWA) joined the Trust’ is £1m not £2.6m.

I should be grateful if you could let me know how much of SCT’s outstanding debt was transferred to TSAT as there is a discrepancy between the two accounts. I should also be grateful if you would let me know how much, if any, of SCT’s outstanding debt will be written off.”

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

£2.6m debt attributed to Goodwin Academy was transferred to Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) when the academy transferred on 1 September 2018. The cash liability for TSAT is £1m as per note 19 in the trust’s 2018/19 accounts.

Whether further funds are available to be repaid has yet to be established, so we do not know yet how much, if any, of SchoolCompany Trust’s outstanding debt we may need to consider for write off. When this is clarified it will of course be detailed in future trust accounts return.

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, which 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

M Griffiths

Marie Griffiths

Academies and Maintained Schools Group, South