

Cllr Aaron Shotton
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14 September 2018

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Dear Aaron,

TEACHERS' PAY IN WALES

Yesterday I confirmed that the UK Government will provide Welsh Ministers with an additional £23.5m to fund the previously announced teachers' pay award for 2018/19.

This Government values our dedicated public-sector workers and recognises that they deserve to be fairly rewarded for the vital work they do, which is why we ended the 1% public sector pay cap last year. The pay rises we announced in July were the biggest in almost 10 years for around one million public sector workers across Britain – including teachers, armed forces personnel, prison officers, police, doctors and dentists.

I know that councils in Wales have been particularly concerned around how the teacher pay award would be funded in Wales, given that the Department for Education will fund the increase from its existing budgets. However, we recognise the unique set of circumstances in how the teacher pay award currently operates and we recognise that a UK Government decision to increase teacher pay rates beyond previous pay policy has unavoidable cost implications for Local Authority budgets. That is why I worked closely with colleagues across government to ensure that these cost implications were addressed.

Therefore, in line with the principles set out in the Statement of Funding Policy, the Welsh Government will receive £8.7m in 2018/19 and £14.8m in 2019/20 for the teacher pay award in Wales.

As you will know we devolved the power to set teacher's pay in the Wales Act. This will come into force later this month, and will give the Welsh Government the power to set pay rates for the academic year 19/20.

I hope that you will agree this outcome is the best possible result for Wales and councils such as yours, and demonstrates the commitment of the UK Government to the smooth operation of the devolution settlement and Statement of Funding policy.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alun Cairns', written over a horizontal line.

Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru