

From: ACCOUNT, Unmonitored [mailto:Unmonitored.ACCOUNT@education.gov.uk]
Sent: 17 September 2019 16:53
To: Accord Coalition
Subject: Department for Education FOI: 2019-0029941 CRM:0988001

Dear Sir,

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have established that the information you requested regarding capital funding to voluntary aided (VA) schools is not held in full by this Department for all types of funding. Further, under section 21 of the Act, the Department is not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. This response therefore provides figures in relation to some types of capital funding, but in other cases provides a link to where you can find the relevant information yourself, or explains why that information is not available directly from the department.

By way of context, governing bodies are legally responsible for most capital works at voluntary aided (VA) schools. Legislation allows the Secretary of State to provide a grant to assist governing bodies with these costs, but caps that grant in order to require a contribution from the governing body. The current required contribution is 10% of the cost of any capital works. However, the Secretary of State does have the power to decide exceptional circumstances apply and fund capital costs at 100%, and as you say, has chosen to do so for certain central programmes.

Capital funding for VA schools includes funding which may flow to the sector through a number of routes. These include basic need allocations to pay for school places, condition funding to maintain and repair buildings - provided through Devolved Formula Capital funding and the Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP), and funding provided through centrally-delivered programmes such as the Priority Schools Building Programme. I have dealt with these in turn in this response.

Basic Need Funding

“Basic need” allocations to provide capital support for the provision of new school places are allocated to local authorities. It is then for the local authority to determine how this should be invested in their schools, including any investment in VA schools where this meets local demand. Where a local authority chooses to invest basic need funding in a VA school, they may fund works at 100% of the cost with no contribution from the governing body, as the funding is not a direct grant from the SoS to the VA school or governing body.

The Department does not maintain a central record of the sums individual local authorities have spent on difference categories of school. We do, however publish Basic Need allocations by local authority or responsible body, and you may be interested to see this published data available at the link below, which goes back to 2011. The Department does not hold data on allocations before this.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/basic-need-allocations

School condition funding / funding for legacy projects

For context, schools and the bodies responsible for maintaining school buildings receive capital funding for building condition each year. This funding comes through different routes, depending on the size and type of school. All schools, including voluntary-aided schools, receive a direct Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) allocation to pay for minor repair and upkeep costs. However, the bulk of their yearly funding is currently allocated on a formulaic basis at local authority level through the Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP). Local authorities then co-ordinate discussions with local VA partners on how this money should be apportioned amongst schools. Governing bodies are required to make a 10% contribution towards the cost of any capital works funded from these allocations.

Further information about the methodology for allocating condition funding is set out on gov.uk.

The links below provide details of school condition allocations – including DFC and LCVAP allocations to the VA sector - since 2011. A detailed breakdown of condition funding allocations from 2009-2011 is unavailable, but please see the next section.

2011-2012

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130313133421/https://education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/funding/a0070303/schools-capital-allocations-for-2011-12>

2012-2013

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120505111948/http://www.education.gov.uk/a00200794/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/funding/a00200794/schools-capital-allocations-for-2012-13>

2013-2014:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140107105738/http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/a00222251/capital-fund-allocations-mar-13>

2014-2015:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140607040656tf/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-allocations>

2015-2016:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20150710100227/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-allocations>

2016-2017:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160807200224/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-allocations>

2017-2018:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20170804170322/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-allocations>

2018-2019:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20190103104653/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-allocations>

2019-20:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-capital-funding>

Between 2009 and 2013 the department also funded the tail end of a number of additional legacy programmes, such as Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Targeted Capital Funding for certain policy priorities. Some of these were agreed before the Regulatory Reform Order mentioned in your query, and as such the SoS's funding contribution would have been capped at 85% (rather than 90%), requiring a 15% contribution from the governing body. Similarly, some projects – like BSF – were by exception funded at 100% of cost.

Table 1 below shows capital funding payments made to voluntary-aided schools between 2009 and 2013. **The figures include condition funding allocations from 2011 from the links above, condition allocations from 2009-11, and these legacy projects.** For each year it shows the value of funding paid on the basis of the three different required levels of contribution, and therefore the value of that contribution from the governing body.

Table 1

Financial Year	Capital Funding	
	Amount of funding paid to VA Schools	Required contribution by VA Schools
2009-10	85% - £70,000	15% - £10,000
	90% - £605,000,000	10% - £67,000,000
	100% - £27,000,000	0% - £0
2010-11	85% - £550,000	15% - £100,000
	90% - £315,000,000	10% - £35,000,000
	100% - £15,500,000	0% - £0
2011-12	90% - £242,000,000	10% - £26,800,000
	100% - £1,500,000	0% - £0m
2012-13	90% - £208,000,000	10% - £23,100,000
	100% - £10,000	0% - £0m

PFI Funding

In addition to the funding above, since 2009 the Department has also provided capital funding through a number of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) capital projects to rebuild or refurbish schools. Again, the level of contribution required from governing bodies in

relation to these projects has varied depending on the circumstances and timing of the original agreement. Table 2 below shows funding for PFI projects since 2009.

Table 2

Financial Year	PFI Funding	
	Amount of funding paid to VA Schools	Required contribution by VA Schools
2009-10	85% - £1,500,000	15% - £270,000
	90% - £70,000	10% - £10,000
	100% -£9,600,000	0% - £0
2010-11	85% - £1,500,000	15% - £270,000
	90% - £0	10% - £0.00
	100% -£9,400,000	0% - £0
2011-12	85% - £1,000,000	15% - £20,000
	90% - £70,000	10% - £10,000
	100% -£12,100,000	0% - £0
2012-13	85% - £1,600,000	15% - £290,000
	90% - £120,000	10% - £10,000
	100% -£10,500,000	0% - £0
2013-14	85% - £1,500,000	15% - £260,000
	90% - £40,000	10% - £5,000
	100% -£11,500,000	0% - £0
2014-15	85% - £1,500,000	15% - £270,000
	90% - £40,000	10% - £5,000
	100% -£11,500,000	0% - £0
2015-16	85% - £1,500,000	15% - £270,000
	90% - £40,000	10% - £5,000
	100% -£11,300,000	0% - £0
2016-17	85% - £1,400,000	15% - £25,000
	90% - £40,000	10% - £5,000
	100% -£11,500,000	0% - £0
2017-18	85% - £1,900,000	15% - £330,000
	90% - £40,000	10% - £5,000
	100% -£11,700,000	0% - £0
2018-19	85% - £1,500,000	15% - £270,000
	90% - £40,000	10% - £5,000
	100% -£11,500,000	0% - £0

Priority School Building programme

The Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) is rebuilding and refurbishing school buildings in the worst condition across the country. There are two phases of the

programme covering over 500 schools. The first phase, PSBP1 focused on rebuilding or refurbishing whole schools, whereas the second phase, PSBP2, focuses on individual buildings on school sites.

Table 3 below shows funding provided through PSBP1 and PSBP2 to voluntary aided schools. PSBP has been funded at 100%, requiring no statutory contribution from the governing body. However, in some cases schools have requested additional specifications in PSBP builds, which they have then funded as a contribution to the cost. These additional contributions are shown in the table.

Table 3

Year	Total funding provided	Governing body additional contribution
2013-14	£3,533,500	£30,700
2014-15	£27,612,700	£240,300
2015-16	£59,721,600	£519,600
2016-17	£115,721,900	£1,006,900
2017-18	£104,484,500	£909,100
2018-19	£68,543,300	£596,400

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number DfE FOI: 2019-0029941 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.

David Shand (CCU)

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