

Appendix 1

Disclosures from EA/2006/0006, DfES & IC & Evening Standard

DfES vs INFORMATION COMMISSIONER AND EVENING STANDARD

Information considered by the Information Tribunal on 4-5 January 2007

Key:

- - highlights disclosure after internal DfES review on 15th April 2005
- - highlights further disclosure on 22nd November 2006 provided in the course of preparation for the tribunal hearing.
- All items not highlighted comprise protected target material

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 2 September 2002

[Helen Williams] - Last month of consultation period on SSA reform options. Ministers will need to decide early October. Is currently rethinking schools capital priorities with David Miliband.

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 30 September 2002

A presentation to Ministers on a Capital Strategy to support TSE was planned for October. Consultation on SSA reform had ended, with advice going to Ministers later this week/early next with announcement planned for early December. A meeting that day with the Treasury on the follow-up to the SR to explore options on ESS/grant split.

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 7 October 2002

Need for progress with Treasury on ESS grant balance – another meeting needed.

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 14 October 2002

Key meeting of GL – official committee on local government – to discuss ring fenced grants.

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 21 October 2002

On LEA funding reform, SoS and David Miliband are meeting to discuss the whole package;

STRATEGIC MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 20 November 2002

3 year budgets

Schools

LEAs have been sent a letter asking them to give schools indicative budgets up to 2005-06.

Department does not have the power to enforce 3 year budgets.

Action: Andrew Wye to consult with CONFED on this and continue work with LEAs. Andrew Wye to get Ministerial sign-off to these proposals

Department

Andrew Wye confirmed that it would be possible to provide 3-year declarations of amounts available and the formulae for distribution.

Action: Tom Goldman to complete list of grants.

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 3 March 2003

Issues on passporting. Now going to get an idea of the actual level of schools Budgets

SDMG programme management meeting MINUTES FROM MEETING ON 6 MARCH 2003

Update on School Budgets

The group discussed a draft paper for David Miliband to send to the SoS on school funding in 2003-04, in light of complaints of underfunding from schools. Stephen Crowne noted that SDMG need to look at the scale of the Department's agenda and how the situation set out in the note would impact on policy areas. The group agreed that it was important that officials understood the implications of the note, in order to handle queries from schools and LEAs.

Actions

Stephen Kershaw to produce a note on how the Department is channelling significant funds into remodelling and why this is such a top priority

Stephen Crowne to produce a one-sided brief on the situation regarding school budgets to raise awareness among staff

Simon Rea to ensure that Michael Barber is aware of the situation

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 24 March 2003

School Budgets

There was a discussion around extra funding for local authorities to take into account changes to the level of Standards Fund grant. It was noted that this will lead to a softening of some cliff edges but not all.

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 31 March 2003

School Budgets

It was agreed that a note should be put up to the Secretary of State on the short and long term handling of school budgets.

Action

Stephen Crowne to ensure that advice is sent to SoS and circulated to SDMG

SDMG programme management meeting MINUTES FROM MEETING ON 10 April 2003

Schools Budgets

The group discussed Tom Goldman's paper on school budgets for 2004-05. It was agreed that:

- the paper needs to be developed in scoping form and submitted to David Miliband and Robert Hill for comments
- we need to get an agreed position by the beginning of July

Action

Tom Goldman to develop paper further and submit for comments

May 2003 Board Meeting

(Item 4) School Funding

Stephen Crowne summarised the position on school funding, how we got here and what the future might hold.

Key points in discussion were:

- Local Authorities had not consciously sought to divert funds and the public debate was unfortunate.
- It was crucial to balance our response and maintain our room to manoeuvre for both this and next year.
- It was very difficult to get meaningful figures as there was such a mix of different factors in their individual positions.
- The process on reaching decisions next year should be brought forward by 2 to 3 months, if possible.
- There was some risk of a similar row with the FE Sector.

David Normington expressed thanks for the update. The difficulties rose from lack of action rather than anything deliberate. Part of our strategy should be to lead those authorities who genuinely did have the money to ease school difficulties to make a rapid decision.

SDMG meeting MINUTES FROM MEETING ON 23 JUNE 2003

Funding

The group discussed preparation for the funding meeting with David Miliband.

Action points

- Philip Nye to revise presentation to reflect SDMG comments

Stephen Kershaw to expand note on LEA funding

Peter Housden to revise paper on grant in light of SDMG comments

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 30 June 2003

Funding

The group discussed papers for the meeting which would follow with David Miliband. It was agreed that:

- Following the meeting, more time needed to be spent on refining the Secretary of State's letter.

July 2003 Board Meeting

Item 5: School Funding – update

Stephen Crowne **updated on ongoing work** – the purpose of which was to arrive at a package of measures built around a commitment of a guaranteed per-pupil increase to create stability for the next two years. Remaining questions were how this was to be achieved and there were two funding routes:

- i. via EFS (with passporting)
- ii. via a ring-fenced grant to LEAs.

Which option is a matter of ongoing discussion with the centre but we needed to move fast for an announcement before the end of the month. Both had risks: there is the potential for passporting to be unsuccessful or even perverse; the ring-fenced grant ran the risk of squeezing local services and /or leading to a rise in Council tax. Discussion brought home the seriousness of the issue.

It was concluded that the chosen solution must be defensible and it was made clear that we need to get to an understanding of how this issue may affect the funding of children's social services.

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 7 July 2003

Funding

The group discussed the latest situation on school budgets and funding.

WEEKLY KIT MEETING of the SCHOOLS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT GROUP held 14 July 2003

Funding

The group discussed the latest situation on school budgets and funding.