

## Appendix 2 - Letter from Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning in relation to the teacher numbers commitment for 2015-16

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning  
Angela Constance MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot



Councillor Dick Walsh  
Leader of Argyll and Bute Council  
Kilmory  
Lochgilphead  
PA31 8RT



16 December 2015

Dear Councillor Walsh

### **TEACHER NUMBERS 2016-17**

The Deputy First Minister has set out today in his statement to Parliament the terms of the local government finance proposal for 2016-17. The purpose of this letter is to confirm the position of your authority in relation to the 2015-16 teacher numbers agreement and to set out the terms of a revised commitment which forms part of that proposal.

The commitments made by all 32 local authorities to maintain teacher numbers and pupil teacher ratios in 2015-16 were measured in the results of the annual census of pupils and teachers published on 9 December. Those results show that both the number of teachers in Scotland's schools and the overall pupil teacher ratio (PTR) were maintained at a national level since last year. Mr Swinney has confirmed that, as an act of good faith, he will therefore maintain the existing distribution of the £41 million across all 32 local authorities and will not seek to claw back funding which he was entitled to under the terms of the Scottish Government's agreement with individual local authorities.

However, while overall teacher numbers and PTRs were maintained at a national level they were not maintained by every local authority. In the interests of fairness, only those authorities who have maintained or increased their teacher numbers will receive a share of the additional £10 million which was referred to in Mr Swinney's letter of 5 February 2015. This recognises both the additional staff costs these authorities have incurred and their

contribution to maintaining the national figures. It means that Argyll and Bute Council will retain its share of £41 million (£0.692 million) and will not receive a share of the additional £10 million.

I remain firmly committed to maintaining teacher numbers as a central part of our priority to raise attainment and the local government finance settlement proposal makes provision for a return to a national agreement for 2016-17. In return for maintaining overall teacher numbers at 2015-16 levels, and securing places for all probationers who require one under the teacher induction scheme, the Government will provide a continued funding package of £88 million, made up of £51m (comprising the existing £41 million and an additional £10 million added in 2015) to maintain teacher numbers and £37.6 million to support the teacher induction scheme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Constance', written over a thin horizontal line.

**ANGELA  
CONSTANCE**