



Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State

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Comprehensive Spending Review

Thank you for your letter of 16 March, in which you requested information concerning my Department's preparations for the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

At the time you wrote, the Chancellor had recently launched the CSR at the Budget and announced that it would conclude in July. The Chancellor has since announced that the CSR will be delayed to allow the Government to focus on responding to the public health and economic emergency caused by COVID-19.

I have already announced a range of financial measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on education and children's services. My officials continue to anticipate further needs that may arise and develop plans accordingly.

You will of course be aware that there is uncertainty about the medium and longer term impacts of COVID-19, including its effects on the economy and the demands it will place on public services. Naturally, these factors are likely to affect prioritisation decisions at the CSR. I am therefore not yet in a position to respond to your specific queries, but look forward to returning to these matters with you in future.

I look forward to attending your committee on 29 April, where we will be discussing my Department's progress on a range of education and social care issues.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education