

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

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Dear Eilish

Thank you for your letter of 7 July, raising concerns regarding the decision to move the youth service budget into the Education Authority Wider block grant.

While a final budget allocation for 2026-27 has yet to be agreed by the Executive, I have approved the issue of an Interim full-year budget to the EA which includes a composite block grant budget allocation for both schools and youth services.

It may be helpful if I explain that this brings youth funding into line with other established education budget processes and gives the EA the flexibility to make appropriate, evidence-based decisions, while all spending remains subject to policy, legislation and Departmental oversight.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



Paul Givan MLA
Minister of Education