

Rt Hon John Healey MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

28 January 2020

Dear Robert

Local Government Association analysis indicates that, from April, £320m could be redirected from the most deprived areas in the country to the better off.

The most deprived areas have been hit hardest by a decade of Tory austerity, causing a worsening social care crisis. Now we face fresh cuts with services already stretched to breaking point.

The Government's proposed new formula, a result of the so-called 'fair funding review', is anything but fair. It would send money from areas that are most in need in the North to the Conservative-controlled shire councils in the South East.

Hampshire could gain £35m a year while Surrey is in line for an extra £25m. However in my constituency, Barnsley will lose £4.5m (-6.4%) and Rotherham £6m (-8%).

The change seems to be a result of the removal of deprivation in assessing need. With both Conservative and Labour governments, this has been a long-established essential element of central government funding for local council areas, so I would be grateful for more information on the Government's justification for this.

You have described the LGA report as "speculation" so I would also be grateful for your confirmation that the figures are incorrect and that you will guarantee fair funding for all councils.

Local authorities are still in the dark about funding for next year, and with just two months until the start of the next financial year the Government is making it hard to plan for the vital services people need.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John'.

John Healey MP
Wentworth & Dearne