# GUIDANCE ON SCHOOL SIXTH FORM FUNDING

# BRIEFING NOTE 4

To Executive Directors and Local LSC sixth form contacts

School Sixth Form Funding: Allocations update

The sixth form funding questions most frequently asked (understandably) of national office at the moment are "when will schools' provisional allocations be confirmed?" and "how can the provisional allocations be amended when the DTLR transfer has now been completed?"

Following closely behind in frequency is "how will the allocations be adjusted to take account of new school sixth forms/significant pupil number changes in September 2002?"

The answers to these questions are linked.

As we briefed in an earlier note, the DTLR settlement - including the transfer of funds for sixth form provision - has been finalised. To inform that process, we had to give the DTLR (through the DfES) our provisional allocations at LEA level as they stood as at 14 January. In producing those provisional figures, we considered the majority comments received from Local LSCs by that date on the provisional allocations.

Subsequently, as fully expected given the extremely short timescale within which to respond on the provisional allocations in order to influence the

DTLR's process, a number of further errors and clarifications to the data underpinning those provisional allocations - both the formula and RTG figures - have been forwarded to us. We have also become clearer on some plans for new or closing schools sixth forms from September 2002.

Now that the local authority settlement has been finalised, we have had to

discuss with the DfES how we can best proceed with revisions to individual

schools' allocations - and any subsequent in-year reconciliations to take

account of significant changes in pupil numbers following reorganisations

and new school sixth forms - given their link with local authority funding.

We have also been working on a number of issues relating to the SEN allocation.

I am pleased to say that we are making good progress, but we are not quite there yet. I do expect that we will finalise the work before the end of next week. Our aim now is to confirm individual school sixth forms and LEAs' SEN allocations by the end of February.

By early next week, we shall have updated the FAQs; and we shall next week also send out a handling note giving early advice on the processes to follow in notifying schools and LEAs of their confirmed allocations for 2002-03.

The impact of the allocations on pre-16 budgets remains a very serious issue in some LLSC areas. There appears, unfortunately, to be little more that we can helpfully add to our briefings on this issue; but we are arranging a session with Press Office to see if there are any tactics that might be useful locally that we could advise on.

John Ratcliff

Group Programme Manager: 14-19 education