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Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau  
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00956/08

Helen Mary Jones AM  
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4<sup>th</sup> July 2008

*Dear Helen Mary*

Thank you for your letter of 25 June 2008 regarding the Welsh Assembly Government's School Uniform Grant Scheme.

The Welsh Assembly Government introduced the School Uniform Grant Scheme in 2005/06 to assist families on low income with the purchase of school uniform. The grant was available in 2006/07 and 2007/08. £770,000 is available again in 2008/09 and provides individual grants of £100 for pupils entering Year 7 of secondary school in September 2008 who are eligible for free school meals. Pupils in special schools, special needs resource bases and pupil referral units who are aged 11 at the start of the 2008/09 school year and who are eligible for free school meals are eligible also. LEAs administer the scheme on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government.

In answer to your specific question, the grant scheme is monitored by my officials in the Assembly Government's Schools Governance and Revenue Branch. In 2007/08, 6,331 pupils were eligible for the grant and uptake was 94%. The table attached provides a breakdown of the estimated number of eligible pupils compared with the actual number of pupils who claimed the grant in 2007/08.

The number of eligible are estimated prior to the start of the academic year. Unsurprisingly the number of pupils who benefit from the grant can differ from the estimate because pupils may move house or, despite promotional efforts, some families do not take up the offer.

In some LEAs the number of pupils who claimed the grant was actually higher than the estimated number of pupils eligible for the grant.

The grant is promoted with leaflets sent to schools in the summer term before the coming academic year.

I trust you will find this information useful.

*Best wishes,*

*Jane*

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