

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE (WALES)

Special Grant Report (No 9)

(Wales) 2000.

School Support Grant 2000-2001

Introduction

1. This report is made by the National Assembly for Wales ("the Assembly") under section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 ("the 1988 Act")¹. This report specifies a determination of special grants that the Assembly proposes to pay to county councils and county borough councils in Wales ("authorities").
2. This report specifies the Assembly's determination of the authorities to which the grants are to be paid, the purpose for which the grants are to be paid and the manner in which the amounts of the grants are to be calculated. It also sets out such explanation as the Assembly considers desirable of the main features of the determination and specifies the conditions the Assembly intends to impose on the payment of the grants.

The Purpose

3. Pursuant to section 88B(3)(b) of the 1988 Act, the Assembly hereby determines the following purpose for which the special grant will be paid: to help schools to improve standards (School Support Grant).

Amount Payable by Authorities

4. Pursuant to section 88(3)(a) and (c) of the 1988 Act, the Assembly hereby determines that the authorities to whom School Support Grants are to be paid and the manner in which the amount of such grants is to be calculated are as set out in Annex A.

Main Features

5. Pursuant to section 88(4) of the 1988 Act, Annex B contains such explanation as the Assembly considers desirable of the main features of the determination specified in this report.

Conditions for the Payment of Special Grants

6. Pursuant to section 88(7) of the 1988 Act, the Assembly hereby specifies as the conditions which the Assembly intends to impose on the payment of the grants, the conditions set out in Annex C.

Approved by resolution of the National Assembly for Wales on

19 December 2000

ANNEX A

AMOUNTS PAYABLE TO SCHOOLS

CALCULATION OF SCHOOL SUPPORT GRANT

1. Grant is to be paid to every county council and county borough council in Wales that has the functions of a local education authority for onward transmission to schools within their area.
2. The amounts of grant payable to each authority will be calculated as follows:
 - a. £1,000 in respect of each primary school open on 1 December 2000 plus £10 per pupil;
 - b. £1,000 in respect of each secondary school open on 1 December 2000 plus £15 per pupil;
 - c. £1,000 in respect of each nursery school open on 1 December 2000;
 - d. £1,000 in respect of each Pupil Referral Unit open on 1 December 2000;
 - e. £2,500 in respect of each special school open on 1 December 2000.

For the purposes of calculating grant, an all-age school will be treated as a secondary school.

3. The pupil numbers used to calculate grant will be the number of full-time-equivalent pupils registered at the school on **11 January 2000** (the January 2000 schools census)
4. For the purposes of calculating pupil numbers for a school in existence on 1 December 2000, but not on 11 January 2000, which did not draw its pupils from the amalgamation of one or more other schools, the date used for determining pupil numbers will be 1 December 2000.
5. Where schools have amalgamated since 11 January 2000, for the purposes of making this grant, pupil numbers for the new school will be regarded as being the sum of the

pupils in the schools which were amalgamated.

where full-time-equivalent = (numbers of full-time pupils) plus (one-half the number of part-time pupils)

and a part-time pupil is one who does not attend school both morning and afternoon at least 5 days a week.

6. Where schools have already reached agreement with local authorities about the number of staff being assimilated onto the leadership spine, or the proposed increase to be awarded to individuals, no re-examination of those agreements should be made as a result of the funds being made available in this report.

MAIN FEATURES OF THE GRANT

1. On 19 December 2000, the National Assembly confirmed the Finance Secretary's announcement about the additional funding made available in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Pre-Budget of 8 November 2000. £7.9m is to be made available to schools to directly support school budgets in 2000-01 to help schools drive up standards. The funding will be paid to local authorities for onward transmission to schools. The first call on the funds will be to meet the costs associated with the assimilation of posts into the school leadership group. Any balance remaining after schools have met these costs can be used by schools to improve standards - it can be used for teaching materials, staff costs, equipment and/or repairs and maintenance of school buildings and premises.

CONDITIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF GRANT

1. Subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 below, it will be a condition of receipt of grant that local authorities must make available funds to schools in accordance with Annex A within 10 working days of receipt by the local authority.
2. In respect of nursery schools and pupil referral units, it is a condition of grant that an authority spend any grant received in respect of such schools / units on those schools.

Details of how grant has been spent

4. Each authority which receives grant shall provide details to the Assembly on a form provided at such time or times as it may specify about how the grant the subject of this report has been spent by the authority.

Audited statement

5. Each authority which receives grant shall ensure that information provided to the Assembly is certified, on an audit form provided, by the authority's Chief Finance Officer, by 30 September following the financial year end and by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission, and that the audit form is received by the Assembly, duly certified not later than 1 December following the financial year end.