

**ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY
RONNIE ARMOUR**



Daniel McCrossan
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST BT4 3XX

Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR
Tel: 028 91 279524
Email: ronnie.armour@education-ni.gov.uk

Email: Committee.publicaccounts@niassembly.gov.uk

SCORR-0018-2025

12 June 2025

Dear Daniel,

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION

Thank you for your letter dated 6 June 2025 requesting the total maintenance costs of both primary and secondary schools, over the past 5 years, in advance of the above evidence session.

Schools' and Special Schools' Maintenance Budget

Schools' Maintenance and Special Schools' Maintenance is allocated to the Education Authority (EA) from the Department as earmarked resource funding for the controlled and maintained sectors. The table below shows the EA Schools' Maintenance final expenditure figures for the past five years. You will note that the information provided for 2024-25 is provisional outturn expenditure, and as such may be subject to change.

Resource Budget Description	Final Outturn Expenditure by Financial Year £m				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24*	2024-25* Provisional Outturn
Schools' Maintenance (*includes: Special Schools' Maintenance)	22.689	25.235	27.927	30.932	30.586

Common Funding Scheme

All grant aided schools are funded under the [Common Funding Scheme](#) (CFS). The Common Funding Formula (CFF) is the Department's mechanism for allocating budgets to schools funded through Local Management of Schools arrangements. The CFS is made up of a number of funding factors, which include the Premises Factor¹ and Landlord Maintenance Factor. School budgets are almost entirely delegated and are expected to meet a range of items of expenditure.

¹ It is important to note that the Premises Factor is intended to provide funding for [tenant] maintenance and management of school buildings (i.e. heating, lighting, cleaning, caretaking and upkeep of grounds). A *Common Funding Formula for Grant-Aided Schools April 2001 (p. 45)*

Neither DE nor the EA collect data on tenant or landlord maintenance expenditure for Voluntary Grammar (VG) or Grant Maintained Integrated (GMI) schools. Therefore, reported maintenance expenditure does not include tenant or landlord maintenance expenditure for VG and GMI schools.

Funding allocated in the last five years via the Premises factor of the CFF is as follows:

Financial Year	Controlled & Maintained Premises (£)	VG and GMI Premises (£)	Total Premises Funding (£)
2025-26	49,350,881	17,279,358	66,630,239
2024-25	49,547,023	17,092,652	66,639,675
2023-24	49,408,776	17,145,617	66,554,393
2022-23	49,235,631	17,153,203	66,388,834
2021-22	49,239,666	17,189,779	66,429,445

Landlord Maintenance

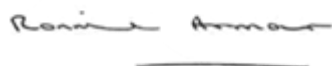
VG and GMI schools are allocated an additional amount per square metre for landlord maintenance expenditure. The rate (currently £13 per square meter recorded on the school's premises area) is decided by the Department and takes account of the amount spent on landlord maintenance by the EA for its controlled and maintained schools, uprated to reflect diseconomies of scale.

Funding allocated in the last five years to VG & GMI schools via the Landlord Maintenance factor of the CFF is as follows:

Financial Year	Landlord Maintenance Funding Allocated (£)
2025-26	10,500,503
2024-25	10,340,455
2023-24	10,314,749
2022-23	10,308,817
2021-22	10,318,274

I trust you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



RONNIE ARMOUR