



# COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY

Town Hall, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LW

☎ 0300 1234 105

✉ [enquiries@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@scilly.gov.uk)

Department of Education (DfE)

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

To whom it may concern:

The Council recognises and values the good and productive working relationship that it has with the Department for Education and ESFA and is appreciative of the increase to the grant funding contribution from the Department for Education towards boarding, accommodation and travel costs to support eligible post 16 students to access full time education on the mainland of England for 2025/26 from £6365 to £8,000

However, we are writing in the hope of opening a conversation with you about further increasing the grant funding paid to the Council in respect of this contribution. During its meeting on [24<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#), Full Council debated the continued challenges of actual costs to parents in paying for travel and accommodation for their child to continue their education or training on the mainland. The fact that the grant funding from the Department for Education together with additional funding from the Council does not fully cover all boarding, accommodation and travel cost options remains controversial. The Council has no available additional budget, without cutting other services or increasing its council tax significantly.

At this meeting a decision was made by Members that the Council commits to continue to make representations to central government specifically the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), an executive agency of the Department for Education, in respect of increasing the ESFA grant paid to the Council in respect of a contribution made towards boarding, accommodation and travel costs to support eligible post 16 students in full-time education and training on the mainland of England. This letter seeks to implement that decision.

The Council has faced judicial review proceedings because of this issue, multiple complaints, multiple Freedom of Information Act requests and press enquiries. The result of this is that significant amounts of time and costs have been expended on this instead of on service provision itself. This issue has also attracted political interest from its MP representative Andrew George.

It is felt strongly that the longevity and the future of the islands is reliant on those who wish to live and work on the islands being able to raise their families here which includes post 16

education and training so that the islands and the communities within them are sustainable and prosper. The Council looks forward to receiving a response in the very near future.

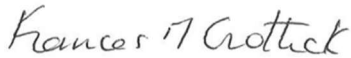
Yours faithfully,



**Robert Francis**  
Chairman of Council  
Council of the Isles of Scilly.



**Russell Ashman**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Council of the Isles of Scilly



**Frances Grottick**  
Lead Member for Children  
Council of the Isles of Scilly.



**Anne Coyle**  
Director of Children's Services  
Council of the Isles of Scilly