



HM Prison & Probation Service

Phil Copple
Director General of Operations
HM Prison and Probation Service
8th Floor Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

Email: dgoperationshmpps@justice.gov.uk

To: The Constructive Custody Coalition
CC. Anne Fox

13th February 2025

Dear all,

Following our recent meeting, I committed to writing to you with an update on budget allocations for the Prison Education Dynamic Purchasing System (PEDPS). I have also copied Anne Fox, CEO of Clinks to ensure the wider sector is aware.

I would like to start by reiterating HMPPS's commitment to working with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. We are proud to have built a diverse set of partnerships since the introduction of the Prison Education Dynamic Purchasing System (PEDPS) in 2019, and of the positive educational outcomes for prisoners that we have delivered together. We are keen to see this continue in the future.

The national budget allocated to the PEDPS in 2025/26 will be £12m across public prisons in England. This is broadly comparable to the investment in the PEDPS in the year 2024/25.

Prisons received their indicative PEDPS allocation for 2025/26 in November 2024, to begin considering their local commissioning plans. The national budget has been allocated to prisons using a funding formula which considers their size and function(s). Whilst education is a vital part of all regimes, we have allocated slightly more money per prisoner where they are closer to the end of their sentence (e.g. in prisons with a resettlement function) with the aim of best supporting employment after release.

This sets a national strategy, and then Area Executive Directors and Prison Group Directors have been given the opportunity to consider whether any local factors mean that PEDPS allocations should be balanced differently across regions. The same approach has been taken when allocating the national budget for the new Core Education contracts to prisons.

Although our internal allocations process has not fully concluded I wanted to give prisons certainty as early as possible to put arrangements in place. My team has therefore, this week, written to all prisons

confirming their PEDPS allocation for 2025/26. Confirmation of the allocation will enable prisons to begin formally commissioning services which you will be able to engage with.

Since sharing the indicative allocations in November, prisons have been supported by the national Education Group to undertake pipeline planning. This planning is important as it ensures that prisons are fully utilising their budget and preparing to engage the VCSE sector. Although budgets are allocated on an annual basis, the pipeline planning can also provide assurance to prisons and providers on arrangements that may span financial years.

Additional training and guidance on maximising the PEDPS is also provided to Governors and their teams through regular tutorials and an internal Sharepoint site. This support will continue over the coming months.

Beyond 2025/26, the financial outlook for prisoner education and for HMPPS will be subject to the ongoing Spending Review process. However, we are clear that the PEDPS is a vital part of our future education provision and as part of that process will continue to make the case strongly.

Thank you for your continued engagement, and for all you do to deliver high quality education, skills and work opportunities to the prisoners in our care.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Copple'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PHIL COPPLE

Director General of Operations