



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
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OLDHAM
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Our Ref: KHM/PARK02002/02151218

16 June 2015

Dear Dr Wilkins

Thank you for your recent letters, received 1st June, regarding resolutions passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st April.

Thank you for taking the time to share the Council's concerns with me regarding funding cuts to local government and the unfair way in which this was undertaken. This is an issue I raised in Parliament on several occasions, with specific reference to Oldham's settlement, and I agree with the Council that there should be a fairer local government funding settlement. I will continue to raise this issue with Ministers. I note that you have already written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, on this issue.

On adult skills funding, I also share the Council's concerns regarding adult skills funding. Indeed, the Oldham Fairness Commission report, published in March 2015 and which I established and chaired, looks at the skills gap and how this affects employability in Oldham. I note that you have also written to the appropriate Government Minister on this issue.

With regard to Sky Lanterns, as PPS to Shadow Health Secretary Andy Burnham MP, I can no longer sign EDMs. In addition, you may be interested to know that EDMs 'fall' at the end of each Parliamentary session and as such EDM 266 which was tabled in the 2014-15 session is no longer available for signature.

Thank you again for taking the time to share the Council's views with me. As ever, if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

DEBBIE ABRAHAMS MP
Oldham East and Saddleworth

Debbie Abrahams MP is proud to represent the people of
Alexandra, Lees, Saddleworth, Shaw & Crompton, St Mary's, St James' and Waterhead

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