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**Nadhim Zahawi MP**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Sir Mark Hendrick MP

By email: [mark.hendrick.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mark.hendrick.mp@parliament.uk)

Your ref: ZA32475

11<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your email of 3 July, addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, on behalf of several of your constituents, setting out the points raised by the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) in its briefing paper of 11 June. Your email has been passed to this department and I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

I am committed to ensuring that all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including those with hearing impairments, receive the support they need to achieve well at school and in college and to go on to secure good employment opportunities and lead independent lives.

I know how important it is to get the services and national leadership right in order to improve outcomes for young people with SEND. As we approach the next spending review, the department is looking carefully at how much funding will be needed in future years. The views of the sector, including those raised by the NDCS, will inform our thinking in this regard.

Given that funding decisions are dependent on the outcome of the next spending review, I am not in a position to address each of the points raised by NDCS here. However, I can assure you that work is ongoing to ensure children and young people with SEND are supported effectively.

To drive change nationally, and to improve outcomes for children and young people, we have established a new SEND Leadership Board to provide leadership to enable all areas to work with their partners to plan, commission, and make best use of their resources. We are also co-hosting ministerial roundtables, with the Department for Health and Social Care, the first meeting of which was attended by NDCS.

In addition, the Whole School SEND Consortium is being funded by the department to embed SEND into school improvement in order to equip the workforce to deliver high quality teaching across all types of SEND, including children and young people with hearing impairments.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Nadhim Zahawi MP**  
**Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families**