

Dear Directors of Children's Services,

In March 2025, we published £738 million in High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) for the 2025-26 financial year to support LAs to deliver new places for children and young people with SEND or who require alternative provision.

The funding can be used to adapt schools to be more accessible for children with SEND, to create specialist facilities within mainstream schools that can deliver more intensive support adapted to suit the pupils' needs and to create special school places for pupils with the most complex needs.

In the guidance published alongside the announcement of these allocations, LAs were informed that we would be asking for grant assurance data, providing details on the projects LAs intend to fund using HNPCA.

An updated template is attached to this email. LAs should include all projects in the return that have used, or will use, HNPCA funding since 2021-22 up to 2025-26 and submit the return to the department by **1st October 2025** by emailing capital.allocations@education.gov.uk.

The template is not pre-populated with past data and information. If you do not have access to the returns you have previously submitted, do get in touch and we can share these.

This data is extremely valuable to help the department understand how this funding is used at both a national and local level.

No decisions have yet been made about the methodology we will use to calculate future allocations, but we are considering whether this data can be used to identify where provision is already being funded and where there is still need in the sector. We will not use the data provided in these returns without consulting LAs further about what this might look like, but we ask that you take the time to provide us with accurate and detailed data, as this will facilitate better analysis and could help us to more accurately target need.

To ensure the data provided is of a high quality, please:

- Read the guidance sheet and the instruction boxes on the data sheet carefully, as these provide helpful information about how to complete each section of the return
- Use the drop-down options in the data template where they are provided. If drop-down options are not used, data will not be consistent, and we won't be able to analyse it. **We will ask LAs to recomplete their returns if the format of the template has not been followed.**
- Ensure you have signed off your LA's final returns. If someone else in your organisation will be completing the return, please ensure you have final oversight and provide confirmation of this when the return is submitted.

As well as informing our policy, this data provides much needed assurance that LAs are spending their funding in an efficient and appropriate way. We will therefore be following up with local authorities who fail to return templates by the deadline.

Please contact capital.allocations@education.gov.uk if you have any questions or require any support to complete the return. If you anticipate you will not be able to meet the October deadline, please let us know as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Central Capital Unit