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Local Authority Chief Executive
Director of Education
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SUMMARY SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND 2023: TEACHER NUMBERS

You will no doubt be aware that the Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland 2023 were published earlier today and show that teacher numbers, nationally, have fallen for the second consecutive year.

My letter of 9 February 2023 set out the conditions attached to the £145.5m funding that is allocated to local authorities to protect teacher numbers, with the key measure being maintaining teacher numbers at 2022 census levels, as published in the Summary School Statistics in December 2022. The 2023 census shows a decrease in teacher numbers nationally of 160, down from 54,193 in 2022 to 54,033 in 2023.

As set out in my letter of 9 February, in the event of the conditions not being met on teacher numbers, the Scottish Government has reserved the right to recover or withhold relevant monies allocated to individual authorities for these purposes. As you are aware, £45.5m of this funding has been retained by the Scottish Government subject to councils maintaining the national teacher number figure. I am now writing to you as one of the councils that has not met your target for maintaining teacher numbers.

My letter of 9 February also set out the number of teachers we expected each local authority to maintain. For .. this was ...The 2023 census shows a drop to ... therefore a reduction of ...

I also indicated in my letter that we would intend to be fair and balanced in these decisions and, in assessing whether our conditions have been met, we would consider any mitigating circumstances that individual councils may wish to put forward. I am therefore writing to ask, in view of the decrease in teacher numbers in ... Council, if you wish to provide further information on the circumstances behind this reduction. Each case will be considered on its individual merits and the final decision as to whether any funding will be withheld will be made by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.



Given the requirement to meet budgetary deadlines I would request a response by 19 December.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Anson
Deputy Director: Workforce, Infrastructure & Digital

