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Dear Laura,

I am writing to you regarding funding for special educational needs (SEND) following the publication of the School's White Paper, '*Every Child Achieving and Thriving*.'

In a debate in the House of Commons on 13 April, I questioned the Minister for School Standards on the funding shortfall relating to SEND. The Minister said that 'The OBR made its projections [on SEND funding] before it had seen our [reform](#) plans.'

In the March 2026 Economic and Fiscal Outlook, the OBR states that 'uncertainty around the impact of the reforms represents continued risk to the forecast' and that the Government has not provided 'estimates of any cost related savings.' This means that according to the OBR's analysis, the funding gap is now in the region of [£2 billion](#).

The White Paper was published before the OBR's most recent economic forecast. Therefore, could you please shed some light on when the OBR made these calculations? If they were made prior to the publication of the White Paper, I would appreciate some clarity on the funding gap. Alternatively, if these forecasts were made after the White Paper was published, it would prove useful to know whether you agree with the Minister's assessment made in the House on Monday.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

**Saqib Bhatti MBE MP**  
Member of Parliament for Meriden and Solihull East  
Shadow Education Minister

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