

Please Reply To:
16 Maryport Street
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Monmouthshire
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Date: 25th October 2013
Our Ref: P(7)/lp
Your Ref:

Jane Hutt AM
Minister for Finance
Welsh Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Jane

I wish to express my concern about the 4.4 per cent funding cut being imposed on Monmouthshire County Council by the Welsh Government, which in turn has created a budget shortfall of £9 million for the local authority.

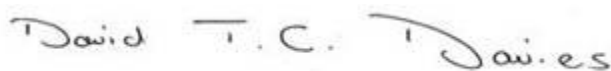
It is my understanding that in recent years the block grant given to the Welsh Government has increased from £14,242 million in 2008-2009 to £14,872 million in 2012-13. It is set to further rise to £15,096 million in 2015-16. Obviously, this raises questions surrounding the proposed cuts to Monmouthshire County Council.

I would be grateful if you could confirm where and on what the Welsh Government has been spending the additional money it has received from the block grant, including any projects it has financially backed. Can I also ask if the Welsh Government has considered using the increase to boost the funding provided to Monmouthshire County Council?

Due to the current budget situation, Monmouthshire County Council has been left with no choice other than to look at closing popular local services such as the libraries in Gilwern and Usk. In light of the fact the block grant has increased, I am sure you will appreciate it is important that the Welsh Government explains why it is reducing funding to Monmouthshire.

I also believe it is important for answers to be provided on what the increases in the block grant that the Welsh Government has received is being spent on.

Yours ever



David T C Davies MP

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