

Received 14th October, 2020

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 17 September 2020. You requested information relating to the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), including its relationship with the Department for Education (DfE). I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Department has decided that the public interest lies in disclosing the information.

Responses to your requests for information are as follows:

1. What, if any, legal/contractual arrangements are currently in place between the DfE and the Education Endowment Foundation?

There is a grant funding agreement in place between the Department for Education (DfE) and the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). This was originally signed in March 2011 by representatives of the DfE and the Sutton Trust, and was subsequently novated to the EEF following it being established as a separate entity.

2. What historical, if any, legal/contractual arrangements have existed between the DfE and the Education Endowment Foundation?

In addition to the grant funding agreement referred to above, from 2018 to 2020 the DfE had a separate contract in place with the EEF for a project to test out evidence-based home learning environment support programmes in the North of England, focusing on supporting early language and literacy.

3. What cash grants, awards or other financial transactions have taken place between the DfE and The Education Endowment Foundation since the EEF was founded in 2011?

The table below provides details of all of the funding that has been allocated to the EEF through the main grant funding agreement between the DfE and the EEF:

Date	Purpose of grant funding	Amount paid
2011	Founding grant	£125,000,000
2012	To fund projects on literacy catch-up for disadvantaged pupils who have not achieved the expected standard in English at the end of KS2	£10,000,000
2013-15	To fund projects on how research evidence can best have an impact on teaching practice	£1,000,000
2015	To fund projects on how schools can develop character skills in pupils and prepare them for success in adult life	£1,000,000
2018	To set up a "what works fund" to enhance the evidence-based professional development opportunities in the early years	£1,900,281
2018	To fund evaluation of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile pilot	£271,171
2020	To fund delivery in 2020/21 of the Partners strand of the National Tutoring Programme (subsidised tuition for disadvantaged pupils from approved tutoring organisations)	£76,000,000
2020	To fund delivery of a reception year early language programme in 2020/21	£6,630,000

In addition, from 2018 to 2020 the DfE had a separate contract in place with the EEF for a project to test out evidence-based home learning environment support programmes in the North of England, focusing on supporting early language and literacy. This contract was awarded to the EEF following an open competitive tendering exercise, and involved payment of £3,109,288 to the EEF over two financial years.

4. Please reveal and explain the legal relationship between the ‘What Works Network’, the EEF and the DfE.

The Department for Education (DfE) and the EEF jointly signed a grant funding agreement in March 2011, with the DfE as the provider of grant funding and the EEF as the recipient. This agreement sets out the remit and overall objectives of the EEF, and the terms and conditions under which the grant funding is provided to the organisation.

The EEF pre-dates the existence of the What Works Network. The What Works Network was established by HM Treasury and Cabinet Office Ministers in 2013 to ensure that the best available evidence informs spending decisions. It brings together a network of 13 independent What Works Centres that assess the existing evidence base in specific policy areas and issue guidance on cost effective practice. The Cabinet Office continues to act as the secretariat for the Network. The membership criteria for What Works Centre status, that all centres including the EEF are signed up to, is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-works-network-membership-requirements/what-works-network>

5. Are you aware of any legal/contractual relationship between the EEF and The Early Intervention Foundation?

The EEF and the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) put in place a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations for the production of the Social and Emotional Learning guidance report in March 2018.

The EEF and EIF also co-funded an event on 22 October 2015.

6. The EEF claim that, “.....together with Sutton Trust, to be the government-designated What Works Centre for Education.” How was this designation awarded, when and at what cost. Was there, for example, a tendering process. What was the value of the contract awarded?

No What Works Centre pays any fees to join the Network, nor do they receive any funds in return for joining the Network. The EEF and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence were founding members of the What Works Network and helped to establish it. The Cabinet Office has since put in place the following joining process, which is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-works-network-membership-requirements/what-works-network>.

7. What, if any, legal/contractual arrangements are currently in place with ‘The National Tutoring Programme (NTP)?

9. Understanding that the NTP is being ‘run’ by the EEF – what legal/contractual arrangements exist? What was the value of the contract awarded?”

The NTP represents a programme of funding to support a range of catch-up provision for disadvantaged pupils. It will comprise of at least 3 parts in the 2020 to 2021 academic year, including a 5 to 16 programme, a 16 to 19 fund for school sixth forms, colleges and all other 16 to 19 providers and a Reception year early language programme. Further details are below.

NTP Tuition Partners and Academic Mentors – support for 5-16 year olds

This programme is aimed at providing additional, targeted support for disadvantaged and vulnerable children who need the most help.

There are two pillars to the programme:

i) NTP Tuition Partners - schools will be eligible to access subsidised tuition from an approved list of tuition partners. This is being delivered by Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). The department’s

grant agreement with EEF is for £76m and requires them to make high-quality, subsidised tutoring available to schools across the regions from NTP Tuition Partners.

ii) Academic Mentors: schools in the most disadvantaged areas can apply for support to employ in-house academic mentors to provide small group tuition to their pupils. This is being delivered by Teach First who have been allocated a £6.4m contract to recruit, train and place mentors as members of staff in schools and provide ongoing support. In addition to that, the government will pay schools directly, using existing funding mechanisms, for the core salary of mentors as they are appointed.

Reception year - early language programme

The reception year early language programme aspect of the National Tutoring Programme is being run in partnership between the DfE and the EEF. The EEF's existing grant has been varied to allow them to identify an evidence-based early language programme with robust evidence of impact on oral language skills and early literacy outcomes. This programme aims to provide participating schools with access to staff training, resources and ongoing implementation support in the academic year 2020-2021. The value of this grant variation is £6.63m.

Small group tuition for 16-19 years olds

The 16 to 19 tuition fund offers £96 million for schools, colleges and all other 16 to 19 providers to support small group tuition for students in English, maths, and other courses where learning has been disrupted. The funding is available on an opt-in basis, institutions need to confirm that they wish to receive the funding available to them and that they will use it in line with the requirements published on GOV.UK. There is no 3rd party arrangement for this funding; agreements for this funding are made directly between the DfE and 16-19 providers that wish to receive the funding, payments are made using existing funding mechanisms.

Further information is here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-funding-16-to-19-tuition-fund>.

8. Is the NTP a DfE initiative – was there a tendering process?

The 5-16 NTP programme has been designed and developed by a collaboration of five charities – the [EEF](#), [Sutton Trust](#), [Impetus](#), [Nesta](#) and [Teach First](#) – working in partnership with the DfE.

Ordinarily, funding is awarded through an open competitive process. However, the Tuition Partners and Academic Mentors pillars of the NTP were developed to respond to the very immediate school need to support pupils to catch-up on learning lost as a result of school closures and wider disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Direct award via a grant variation to EEF and a contract variation to Teach First was the only option available to the Department which would deliver these pillars of the NTP to the timescale required.

The EEF has a high level of pre-existing knowledge about tutoring and the tutoring market, including having run a successful tutoring pilot over the summer. Teach First is a leading provider of recruitment into the teaching sector. The two organisations are ideally placed to scale up the provision of tutoring, at pace, whilst remaining strongly focussed on issues of quality and accessibility.

The 16-19 tuition fund for small group tuition was made by a direct agreement between the DfE and the 16-19 provider. Therefore, there was no involvement with the EEF.

The reception year early language programme is part of the NTP in academic year 2020 to 2021. It is a DfE initiative aimed at improving the language skills of reception age children who, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, may have missed out on more than 20 weeks of formal early education and childcare at a crucial time for their early language development. Early language is a key predictor of later educational and employment outcomes.

The reception year early language programme is led by DfE and delivered through the EEF. Given the time pressure to mobilise a programme quickly during the Covid-19 pandemic, DfE agreed a grant variation with the EEF, using their existing position as the What Works Centre for education to identify an evidence-based early language programme with robust evidence of impact on oral language skills and early literacy

outcomes; and to provide participating schools with access to staff training, resources and ongoing implementation support. School recruitment to the programme is being undertaken by the DfE.

The award has enabled the programme to be delivered at pace in the academic year 2020 to 2021 and therefore to meet the objective to provide a timely, robustly evidenced Covid-19 catch-up measure, for this year's reception year cohort.

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If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the Department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, who were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the Department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Bannister
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