

Appendix 2: Consultation on the Revised SLA and Funding Model for ARPs

A pack was shared with ARP providers which included a brief on the proposed changes to the current funding model, as well as a copy of the revised ARP SLA. In total three responses were received.

Key insights included:

- The flat £12.5k rate doesn't account for the higher costs of specialised ARPs, especially those for students with hearing impairments (HI), which have greater staffing and equipment needs.
- A request for the funding model to be reviewed annually to match teacher pay awards, given the higher costs of ARPs with specialised staff.
- Clarification is needed on whether the ARP qualifies for EYFS funding, as it serves children in EYFS settings.
- There is lack of clarity of the SLA terms including:
 - Uncertainty around the frequency and scope of school monitoring versus annual quality assurance visits.
 - The idea of multiple pupils sharing a single place is seen as unworkable with the current staffing model.

Feedback from the consultation

Feedback includes one setting being dissatisfied with the new funding structure as well as the revised SLA. Another setting was very dissatisfied with the revised SLA.

One setting provided their feedback via email which stated, *"I have read through the new ARP SLA. I like how the admissions is very clear. I agree with this new SLA."*

Quotes:

"Will the new banding model be reviewed annually to match the teacher pay awards? The running cost of our ARP is significantly higher because of the statutory need for qualified teachers of the deaf. Therefore, the proposed universal/ flat is not equitable and once again does not show a level of commitment or understanding of our context"

"Looking at the EYFS consultation it has a section on EYFS settings with ARPs. Does ours qualify as a such? We have children in our ARP and EYFS so would those get 10k base as listed in that doc or 6k as listed in the ARP doc."

"The timeframe for completing this consultation was extremely short - please increase engagement and time given in future!"

"Regarding funding - I am concerned that the increase this year is just 2% beyond current rates and that there has been no increase in previous years. There is no indication that there will be further increases in further years which places the provision at risk of being financially unsustainable."