

**Please take the time to write to your MP about the impact of cuts to college pay and funding.**

**You can find your MP's email address by entering your postcode here:**

<https://www.writetothem.com>

**You can also use copy and paste the template text below for your email. Feel free to personalise it and remember to add your name and address so your MP will know that you are one of their constituents.**

Dear XXX,

I am writing as your constituent to ask you to raise the issue of the pay and funding crisis in colleges in parliament.

Further education is the only part of the education budget to have had year-on-year cuts since 2010. As the IFS recently pointed out, funding for 16-19 education has fallen by 8% and the adult education budget has been cut by 45%. New funding for T-levels will not be enough to plug this gap, nor will it help the millions of adult learners who can no longer access learning due to the closure of other courses.

These cuts are damaging the fabric of our further education colleges. Over 24,000 teaching staff have been lost from the sector since 2009 – representing a huge loss of expertise - and 90% of colleges report difficulties in attracting the staff they need. Two-thirds cite low pay as a key reason for issues with recruitment and retention, which is unsurprising as the value of further education pay has fallen by 25% since 2010 and college teachers are paid £7,000 less than their counterparts in schools.

Without urgent additional funding for our colleges, we risk cutting off crucial opportunities for people to improve their skills and losing more valuable capacity from an already depleted sector.

I therefore ask that you show your support for further education colleges and their staff, and raise the issue in parliament by:

- raising a question about college pay and funding at Treasury Questions on 21<sup>st</sup> May.
- writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Education Secretary asking for additional funding to support further and technical education.
- signing the following Early Day Motions 1686 (Investing in Further Education) and 1996 (Funding for Further Education) if you haven't already done so.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

XXX