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Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Secretary of State

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Geoff Raw
Chief Executive, Brighton & Hove City Council
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Your ref: MW/GR
10 SEP 2018

Dear Mr Raw,

Thank you for your letter of 15 August about the Adoption Support Fund (ASF) and the Inter-Agency Adoption Fees.

I was pleased to read your comments about the positive impact the ASF has had on meeting the support needs of adoptive families. The Government is committed to continuing its support for the ASF until March 2020.

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced that the next Spending Review will be held in 2019, we are unable to commit more funding to the ASF, pending the outcome of the Review. We will, however, be working closely with the sector to ensure that any decisions on the ASF are evidence-based.

With regard to the Inter-Agency Adoption Fee, the decision to increase the fee for voluntary adoption agencies was taken by the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies. The level of the fee will eventually be negotiated by the sector. The Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board will be monitoring this development and its Chair, Andrew Christie, recently wrote to all Directors of Children's Services and regional adoption agencies' Heads of Service on the issue.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Sincerely
Damian Hinds

Damian Hinds
Secretary of State for Education

