

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

3 November 2020

From Councillor Chris Hurst, Royal Wootton Bassett South Division

To Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills

Item 5 – Public Participation

Question 1

It is now a legal requirement on schools to provide remote learning for children in the event of a local lockdown or pupil self-isolation.

I'm concerned about reports that the Government is cutting the promised number of laptops to schools that are designed to help the most disadvantaged children who do not have access to home IT facilities.

In Wiltshire, was an allocation of laptops promised by the Government? If so, what is the current number of laptops being promised?

If there is a shortfall, will Wiltshire Council commit to meeting this gap? I appreciate there is already a significant budget deficit in the higher needs block and this commitment would put further strain on already stretched resources but without access to IT equipment the attainment gap will only grow between the most disadvantaged children and the rest.

Response

(Q submitted post deadline 29/10/20)

A written response will be provided after the meeting.