

9 December 2016



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



John Penrose MP

Dear Mr Butler,

Thank you for contacting me about section 106. I'm afraid you're absolutely right that it can't be spent on health services, although it still is very useful to fund other things like new roads and services to help our local communities cope with an increase in population. In the past Weston didn't get the balance right, and we've only just finished fixing (most of) the problems, like the improvements to reduce queues at J21 of the M5 at rush hour, winning better local health funding and building more local schools too. You're absolutely right that we can't go back to the days when Weston had too many new housing developments which lacked all the supporting services and facilities (like jobs, schools, leisure spaces, GP surgeries, etc) which turn dormitories into communities.

On health funding specifically, there's been some really good news recently as we've finally got fair funding for the needs of the local population, compared to the rest of the UK. The funding comes directly from central Government through a funding formula that's based on the number of people living in each health authority's area, with adjustments for things like their average age (Weston has more elderly people than average, for example) and levels of smoking, obesity and poverty too. You can read all the details of the new, fairer deal on my website: http://johnpenrose.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3807:north-somerset-times-mp-secures-better-health-care-funding&catid=57:press-cuttings&Itemid=121

Yours sincerely,

John Penrose
MP for Weston-super-Mare