

Dear Minister

Following the publication of the results of the research on the Effects of the Selective System of Secondary Education, you appointed me to Chair the Review Body on Post-Primary Education. You provided my colleagues and me with Terms of Reference that were extensive and helpful in carrying out that task.

In that respect you also assured us that we would work in a context that was free from interference or influence from your own office or Department. I am grateful to you for ensuring that this independence was put into effect. You asked us to be inclusive and transparent in undertaking the task, and I am confident that we have done so, especially through our programme of public meetings, representations from schools and interests groups, open days, school visits, written submissions and use of our website.

The resultant Report that I am pleased to submit to you now, has a series of recommendations which we believe, if implemented, will produce major educational reform that will develop the potential of each young person and equip them with the competence and skills necessary to face the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

I know that you have already given a commitment that you will take views on the Report throughout a consultation period. I know that I am expressing the view of my colleagues, as well as my own, when I say that any assessment of the Report and its recommendations should be taken as an integral whole and not compartmentalised in separate and independent entities.

May I express my thanks for having been given the honour and privilege to serve the community along with my colleagues. I trust that you will also permit me, in this letter, to thank a first class secretariat for an extremely difficult job superbly done.

**Gerry Burns**  
Chairman

