

CANCELLATION OF PUBLICATION “QUALIFICATIONS AND DESTINATIONS OF NORTHERN IRELAND SCHOOL LEAVERS 2002/03”

The Department of Education’s statistical press release “Qualifications and destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers 2002/03” had been pre-announced for publication in June 2004.

Unfortunately, considerable difficulties have arisen with the data collection as a result of technical problems with new software installed in schools. These difficulties have delayed the returns, allowing insufficient time for destination data to be queried with schools – a necessary part of the validation process. The Department considers that attempting to contact schools with such queries in the summer term, or in the following school year, would be an unacceptable bureaucratic burden on schools. With regret, the proposed publication has therefore had to be cancelled.