

Dear Consultee

Review of Public Administration: Policy Paper 20, Publicly Owned Schools – Ownership and Representation

Since the announcement regarding the Review of Public Administration (RPA) in November 2005, the Department of Education has been consulting with stakeholders in order to develop specific proposals for legislation.

The Department of Education has issued a number of high level policy papers relating to the Review of Public Administration (RPA) for public consultation since December 2006. At that time, the Department indicated that several further high level policy papers were still under development, and would be subject to public consultation at a later time. I am now attaching the latest of these papers (Policy Paper 20), regarding proposals for publicly owned (controlled) schools post-RPA for your consideration. This covers two issues – ownership of the controlled schools estate and representation / advocacy for the controlled schools sector. This draft policy has been developed to take account of relevant views and concerns expressed by some stakeholders in response to previous RPA policies.

A copy of policy paper 21 (sectoral support arrangements post-RPA) is also attached, as it is particularly relevant to policy paper 20. You should note that policy paper 21 was previously consulted upon, and is attached now for your information only.

I have also attached the outcome of the screening exercise undertaken to determine the impacts of the high level policy set out in paper 20 on equality of opportunity, as well as other key dimensions. Although the high level policy has been determined to have a neutral impact, stakeholders should be aware that further screening may also be carried out on specific decisions made as a result of the final policy.

Comments on the policy paper and the preliminary screening would be welcomed, and should be sent to the address below by the 09th March 2009.

RPA Legislation Team
G3 Annex
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Bangor
BT19 7PR

Alternatively, you can email your response to rpa@deni.gov.uk. The closing date for comments is the 09th March 2009.

Please contact the Department if you require any of these documents in other formats.

The Department is continuing to work as quickly as possible on a further high level policy paper on the establishment of the Education Advisory Forum, which will be issued for consultation in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C F Stewart", with a horizontal line underneath.

CHRIS STEWART