

Statement from Education Minister Caitríona Ruane;

“The Statement from the Catholic Heads Association sets out what is patently obvious – that the best option is regulation. That is what I have spent my time in office trying to bring about.

“Towards that end, I brought forward compromise proposals which included academic selection on a diminishing basis over a three year period. This was an attempt to introduce a breathing space.

“In the absence of consensus what we face into is unregulation, but remember the majority of schools prefer to end academic selection.

“Academic selection is wrong. I am determined to continue to pursue a course of action to end it.

“It is my understanding that the Catholic Bishops themselves are opposed to academic selection.

“I am disappointed that the Catholic Heads Association have issued this statement in advance of a meeting I agreed to have with them tomorrow. It may be that their intention is to influence my attitude to this issue, but my attitude will remain the same – academic selection is wrong.”