



Department of
Education

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28 November 2006

To: All Education Stakeholder Organisations

REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: POLICY PAPERS

Since the announcement in November 2005 on the outcome of the Review of Public Administration, the Department of Education has been consulting with stakeholders in order to develop specific proposals for legislation. I now attach a series of policy papers which set out our proposals, and describe how the new arrangements are intended to work. These are listed in the attached annex.

The key theme running through the papers is our vision for successful schools and youth services, empowered and supported to raise standards. Ministers intend this to be reflected in every aspect of the new arrangements, and to be the key criterion on which they are judged.

The attached papers will guide the development of legislation to implement the Review of Public Administration in education. I am grateful for the positive and constructive engagement from stakeholders to date, which has informed the drafting of these papers. In the coming weeks we will however be able to take further views. I invite you to consider and comment on the proposals before they are finalized.

Next Steps

The policy proposals will be screened to determine their impact on equality of opportunity, as well as other key dimensions including: human rights; New TSN; effect on business; effect on rural communities; and health impact. Our aim will be to provide stakeholders with the preliminary results of that screening by 8 December 2006. Comments on the policy papers and the preliminary screening would be welcome, and should be sent to the address shown in the Annex by 19 January. If screening indicates the need for a formal equality impact assessment, this will be carried out thereafter.

Work on the preparation of legislation needs to be taken forward as quickly as possible, to ensure that the target of having new arrangements in place by 1 April 2008 is met. This is a very challenging timescale, and it means that initial preparatory work on the legislation must commence now. However, detailed proposals will not be finalized until the outcome of screening and any formal impact assessment has been considered. The draft legislation will also, of course, be subject to formal consultation.

At present Ministers aim to introduce legislation to Parliament during 2007. This would be a matter for the Executive and Assembly to consider in due course if devolution were restored.

Yours sincerely



WILL HAIRE

REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION – POLICY PAPERS

- Paper 1 The RPA in Education – An Overview
- Paper 2 The Relationship between the Education and Skills Authority and Schools
- Paper 3 The Relationship between the Department of Education and the Education and Skills Authority
- Paper 4 The Relationship between DE and Stakeholders, Implications for the Planned Review of Advice
- Paper 5 Governance and Accountability
- Paper 6 The Schools' Estate
- Paper 7 Employing Authority and Employer Roles
- Paper 8 Future of the Schools Library Service
- Paper 9 Youth Services - **to follow under separate cover**
- Paper 10 Education and Training Inspectorate
- Paper 11 General Teaching Council NI
- Paper 12 Education and Skills Authority – Director of Children's Services
- Paper 13 School Improvement
- Paper 14 Contingency Planning Post RPA
- Paper 15 Home to School Transport
- Paper 16 Vending Machines and Other Food in Schools
- Paper 17 Age – Appropriate Provision for Pre-school Children
- Paper 18 Legislation Relating to Data Issues
- Paper 19 Review of Advice **to follow under separate cover**
- Paper 20 Ownership of publicly owned schools **to follow under separate cover**

Notes

Papers 1 to 13 and 20 describe the core RPA policy proposals. Papers 14 to 18 deal with ancillary proposals, some of which are not directly related to the

RPA, but which it is proposed to include in the legislation. Papers 9, 19 and 20 are still being developed, and will follow under separate cover.

The papers do not cover the detailed policies and procedures on human resources (HR) issues. These are still being developed, and will be made available separately in due course.

The contact details for comments are:

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43 Balloo Road
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RPA POLICY PAPERS – DISTRIBUTION

Political Parties

DUP
ALLIANCE
SDLP
SINN FEIN
UUP
UKUP
PUP

Main Stakeholders

Belfast Education and Library Board
South Eastern Education and Library Board
Southern Education and Library Board
North Eastern Education and Library Board
Western Education and Library Board
Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment
NI Council for Integrated Education
Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
Regional Training Unit
Staff Commission
Youth Council
NI Youth Forum
Youth Net

Sectoral Groups

Northern Catholic Bishops/Catholic Trustees
Transferors Representative Council
Governing Bodies Association
Children in NI
C2K
Integrated Education Fund
Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaíochta
Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

Teaching Bodies/Unions

General Teaching Council (NI)
Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Irish National Teachers Organisation
Ulster Teachers Union
National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers
National Association of Head Teachers
Catholic Heads Association
Association of School and College Lecturers

Secondary Heads Association
Association of Head Teachers in Secondary Schools
NI Teachers Council
National Bursars Association

Trade Unions

NI Committee/Irish Congress of Trade Unions
NI Public Service Alliance
UNISON

Other Departments and Bodies

OFMDFM
DHSSPS
DEL
DCAL
DOE
NI Community Relations Council
NIHRC
NI Equality Commission