

To: All education stakeholder organisations

January 2008

**Review of Public Administration : Policy Paper 5 – Governance and Accountability – Implications for School Boards of Governors**

I wish to draw to your attention to the Department's proposals for legislation affecting the composition of the Boards of Governors of grant-aided schools which will be taken forward in the second Review of Public Administration (RPA) Bill.

The Department issued a number of high level policy papers relating to the RPA for public consultation between December 2006 and January 2007. Policy Paper 5 entitled "Governance and Accountability", which is accessible on the Department's website ([www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) under Review of Public Administration, then Policy Documents), sets out in broad terms the governance and accountability framework and the associated legislative provisions that will apply in relation to the Education & Skills Authority and grant-aided schools. Paragraphs 19 to 26 of Policy Paper 5 describes specifically how the proposals will apply to the composition of the Boards of Governors of grant-aided schools.

The Department has completed a preliminary screening of the proposals affecting the composition of school Boards of Governors to determine their impact on equality of opportunity. The screening form sets out the aims of the proposals which are to strengthen school governance across all school sectors in Northern Ireland in order to support the delivery of high quality education and the promotion of raising education standards in schools under RPA. A copy of the screening form may be obtained from:

Mrs Jenny Jackson  
Department of Education  
Schools Administration Branch  
Rathgael House – Room G13  
Balloo Road

Bangor  
BT 19 2PR

Telephone 02891279329

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Email [jenny.jackson@deni.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.jackson@deni.gov.uk)

The proposals have been determined with a view to improving equality of opportunity and the preliminary results of the screening do not indicate a need for an equality impact assessment.

Comments on the proposals and the preliminary screening would be welcome and should be sent to the address above by 10 March 2008.

There will of course be additional opportunities for consultation with stakeholder interests in the future on the provisions to be included in primary and in subordinate legislation.

Yours sincerely



**WILL HAIRE**