RÁITEAS TIONÓIL - 1 Nollaig 2009

Socruithe Idirthréimhseacha Rialachais agus Bainistithe don Earnáil Oideachais le linn na tréimhse sula mbunófar an tÚdarás um Oideachas agus Scileanna

Cuirim fáilte roimh an deis seo le ráiteas a thabhairt don Tionól inniu faoi na Socruithe Idirthréimhseacha Rialachais agus Bainistithe atá á gcur i bhfeidhm agam don Earnáil Oideachais le linn na tréimhse sula mbainfear amach sprioc an Choiste Feidhmiúcháin le hÚadarás um Oideachas agus Scileanna a bhunú.

Thug an Coiste Feidhmiúcháin faoi thiomantas go mbeadh an 1 Eanáir 2010 mar dháta bunaithe don ESA agus rinne mise agus mo Roinn ár ndícheall leis an tiomantas seo ón Choiste Feidhmiúcháin a chur i bhfeidhm. Níor bhain an Bille Céim an Bhreathnaithe amach go fóill áfach

ASSEMBLY STATEMENT - 1 December 2009

Transitional Governance and Management Arrangements for the Education Sector in the period before the Education and Skills Authority is established

I welcome the opportunity to make a statement to the Assembly today about the Transitional Governance and Management Arrangements I am putting in place for the Education Sector in the period before the Executive's objective of an Education and Skills Authority is established.

The Executive committed itself to 1 January 2010 as the establishment date for ESA and I have devoted my energies and those of my Department towards implementing this Executive commitment. However, the Bill has not reached Consideration Stage and the agreed operational date of 1 January

agus ní féidir an dáta comhaontaithe oibríochtúil de 1 Eanáir 2010 a bhaint amach anois.

2010 is no longer achievable.

Le teacht na Bliana Nua, bhí ré nua in ainm is a bheith ann don earnáil oideachais anseo. Ar an drochuair, mar gheall nár thángthas ar chomhaontú polaitiúil tá moill anois ar thús na ré sin.

The New Year was to bring a new era for education here. Sadly the failure to find a political agreement means that era has been delayed.

Cuireadh siar dáta feidhmithe ESA ar roinnt ócáidí ón bhliain 2008. Chuir an méid seo buaireamh ar na mílte ball foirne a bhí fostaithe san earnáil agus is féidir gur chuir sé isteach ar sheirbhísí túslíne fosta. Ní féidir linn ligean don mhoill leanúnach agus ní féidir gan déileáil leis na fadhbanna atá romhainn. Má ligimid agus muna ndéileálaimid, caillfimid amach ar na tairbhí a bhaineann le caighdeáin níos fearr oideachais agus éifeachtúlacht níos fearr a bhainfear amach mar gheall ar fheidhmiú an údaráis nua le seirbhísí bunúsacha a sholáthar.

The implementation date for ESA has been put off on several occasions since 2008. This has been unsettling for thousands of staff employed in the sector and potentially disruptive for front-line services. We cannot continue to allow things to be delayed and keep on pushing the problems in front of us. By doing so we forego the benefits of improved educational standards and greater efficiency that will be realised from the operation of the new authority in delivering front line services.

Creidim go láidir go gcinnteofar aistriú mín chuig ESA chomh luath agus is féidir tríd na daoine ar fad a bhfuil spéis acu i leas na bpáistí atá i gcroílár ár gcórais oideachais. Áirítear ar an méid sin freagracht na

I believe firmly that all those interested in the children at the heart of our education system can and will ensure a smooth transition to ESA as soon as possible. That includes the responsibility of politicians in this

bpolaiteoirí sa tionól seo.

Tréaslaím an iomad comhaltaí agus ball foirne sna heagraíochtaí sin a bhfuil tionchar ag an athchóiriú seo orthu as an ról a bhí acu i rith na hidirthréimhse i dtreo na sprice sin. Aithním áfach go gcaithfear deireadh a chur leis an éiginnteacht bhreise, a d'fhéadfaí go mbeadh tionchar aici ar sheirbhísí túslíne muna ndéanfaí bainistiú uirthi.

Mar Aire Oideachais, tá sé d'fhreagracht orm bearta a ghlacadh. Caithfidh mé a chinntiú go leanfar leis an iarracht chun an t-athchóiriú seo ón Choiste Feidhmiúcháin, a rabhthas ag tnúth leis le fada, a sholáthar. Ní mór don Tionól seo gníomhú go freagrach fosta sna seachtainí agus sna míonna atá romhainn.

Caithfear leanúint leis na hiarrachtaí atá déanta ag an earnáil oideachais go dtí seo i dtreo choinbhéirseacht na ngníomhaíochtaí isteach san eagraíocht nua agus leanfar leo.

Tá mórimpleachtaí airgeadais ann fosta. Tá sriantachtaí móra acmhainne roimh gach Roinn cheana féin don bhliain seo chugainn. Bhí éifeacht ag

chamber.

I pay tribute to the many members and staff in the affected organisations for their contributions during the transition period towards that goal. I recognise however that the heightened uncertainty, which could, if not managed, impact on front line services, has to be dispelled.

As Minister for Education I have the responsibility to act. I must ensure that momentum is maintained towards delivering this long-awaited Executive reform. This Assembly too, must act in a responsible manner in the weeks and months ahead.

The efforts that have already been made by the education sector towards the convergence of activities within a new organisation must and will continue.

There are significant financial implications too. Departments are already facing major resource constraints next year. The delay in ESA

an mhoill i mbunú ESA ar an £8.3m a raibh muid ag súil lena bhaint amach i mbliana ó ESA agus d'fhéadfaí go mbeadh tionchar ag aon mhoill bhreise ar choigilteas don bhliain seo chugainn. Idir an bhliain seo agus an bhliain seo chugainn, baineadh níos mó ná £21m (figiúr cruinn de £21.3 milliún) den bhuiséad don Oideachas cheana féin agus mar sin de beidh tionchar díreach ag aon mhoill i mbunú ESA ar sheirbhísí oideachais – ní féidir ligean dó seo tarlú. Dá fhaide a gcuirtear bunú ESA ar an mhéar fhada, is faide a bheidh ar an Oideachas fanacht ar na tairbhí agus an caillteanas airgeadais a fhulaingt.

coming into being has impacted on the £8.3m that we had expected to achieve this year from ESA and any further delay could impact on savings in the coming year. Between this year and next more than £21m (exact figure £21.3 million) has already been taken out of the Education budget and thus any delay in establishing ESA has a direct impact on education services - this is something we simply can't afford to let happen. The longer the establishment of ESA is put off the longer Education will have to await the benefits and absorb the financial loss.

Caithfear an coigilteas pleanáilte ó ESA a fháil. Tá rogha simplí ach géarthábhachtach le déanamh againn: is féidir an coigilteas a fháil trí ghearradh siar ar mhaorlathas; nó trí ghearradh siar ar theagasc agus ar fhoghlaim. Tá sé ar intinn agam gearradh siar ar mhaorlathas. Is éard atá i gceist ag ESA ná maorlathas a chuíchóiriú agus caighdeáin oideachais a ardú. Tá an dá rud ríthábhachtach.

The planned savings from ESA must be made, so we face a simple, but stark choice: savings can be made by cutting bureaucracy; or by cutting back on teaching and learning. I intend to cut bureaucracy. ESA is about streamlining the bureaucracy and raising educational standards. Both are vitally important.

Mar sin de, bhí mé ag déanamh breithnithe ar na socruithe

I have therefore been considering the Transitional governance and

idirthréimhseacha rialachais agus bainistithe don tréimhse sula mbunófar ESA. Caithfimid cloí le cosán na coinbhéirseachta. Shocraigh mé, mar sin de, socruithe nua a chur i bhfeidhm leis an aidhm sin a bhaint amach.

management arrangements for the period before ESA is established. We need to keep on the path of convergence. I have therefore decided to implement new arrangements to achieve that aim.

Tá mé ag iarraidh aistriú mín bheith ann, agus ba chóir go raibh gach duine sa Tionól seo ag iarraidh an ruda céanna. Tá mé ag baint úsáide as an reachtaíocht reatha mar sin de, le leanúint ar aghaidh leis na socruithe idirlinne ó 1ú Eanáir 2010 atá ceaptha lena chinntiú:

A smooth transition is on my agenda, as it should be for everyone in this Assembly. I am therefore using existing legislation to press ahead with interim arrangements from 1st of January 2010 which are designed to ensure that:

- Go mbíonn laghdú leanúnach ar mhaorlathas agus go mbíonn cuíchóiriú ar sherbhísí oideachais in ullmhúchán don ESA;

- We continue to reduce bureaucracy and streamline education services in preparation for ESA;

- Nach gcaillltear an móiminteam i dtreo bhunú an ESA agus go luathaítear an obair i dtreo choinbhéarseacht na seirbhísí thar na naoi n-eagraíocht atá ann faoi láthair;

- Momentum towards ESA is not lost and that work towards convergence of services across the nine existing organisations is accelerated;

- Go mbaintear amach níos mó aonfhoirmeachta sna seirbhísí atá á soláthar.

- There is greater uniformity achieved in the services provided.

- Go ndéantar iarracht níos tréine le feabhsúchán scoile agus ardú caighdeán a bhaint amach

- School improvement and raising standards is pursued more vigorously

- Go ndéantar níos mó iarrachtaí le coigilteas a bhaint amach trí éifeachtúlachtaí chun seirbhísí túslíne oideachais a chosaint; agus

- There are greater efforts to drive out savings through efficiencies to protect front-line education services; and

- Go ndéantar níos mó maoirsithe airgeadais sa tréimhse seo ina bhfuil níos mó éiginnteachta.

- There is increased financial oversight in this period of increased uncertainty.

Dá n-athbhunófaí na Boird, bheadh sé seo contrartha le cuspóir athchóirithe radacaí an Choiste Feidhmiúcháin do struchtúir oideachais agus bheadh níos mó éiginnteachta ann do bhaill foirne agus do scoileanna. Níl aon fhiúntas ann tríd an chomhaltas iomlán Boird a shíneadh arís don Idirthréimhse. Deir cuid mhór de na comhaltaí ELB go bhfuil a gcion féin déanta acu le himeacht na mblianta agus tá an ceart acu.

To simply reconstitute the Boards, would be contrary to the Executives objective of radical reform of education structures and would only cause further uncertainty for staff and schools. I do not see value in simply extending the entire Board membership again for a Transitional period. Many ELB members rightly state they have already played their part over the years.

Rinne mé an cinneadh ar Reachtaíocht atá ann cheana a úsáid chun ballraíocht na mBord a laghdú

I have therefore decided to use existing Legislation to reduce the membership of the Boards so that we have smaller

ionas go mbeidh struchtúir níos lú cinnteoireachta i bhfeidhm.

decision-making structures in place.

D'iaigh mé in aguisín A líon na ndaoine a mbeidh baint acu leis i ngach Bord Idirthréimhseach.

I have attached at appendix A the numbers which will be involved in each Transitional Board for members perusal.

Tá sé ar intinn agam comhaltas na mBord a laghdú le níos mó ná leath na ballraíochta reatha, figiúr a chuireann san áireamh reachtaíocht chomhionannais agus díospóireachtaí leis an gCoimisinéir um Cheapacháin Phoiblí. Is é is aidhm dom a chinntiú go léiríonn na Boird Idirthréimseacha na pobail a bhfreastalaíonn siad orthu.

I plan to reduce membership of the Boards by over half, taking into account Equality legislation and discussions with the Commissioner for Public Appointments. I aim to ensure that the Transitional Boards will reflect the community they serve.

Beidh mo Roinn i dteagmháil leis na forais ábhartha a ainmníonn comhaltaí chuig na Boird sna laethanta atá le teacht maidir leis na sonraí.

My Department will be in contact with the relevant bodies which nominate to the Boards on the details in the coming days.

Tá mé ag iniúchadh socruithe cuí comhaltais do Chomhairle na Scoileanna Caitliceacha faoi Chothabháil, don Chomhairle Curaclaim, Scrúdúcháin agus Measúnaithe, do Choimisiún na Foirne agus don Chomhairle Ógra.

I am also looking at the appropriate membership arrangements for the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment, the Staff Commission and Youth Council.

Bhreathnaigh mé fosta ar an chaoi ba chóir d'eagraíochtaí feidhmiú san

I have considered too how the organisations should operate in this

idirthréimhse seo i dtreo fheidhmiú cinnidh an Choiste Feidhmiúcháin ar an ESA a bhunú. Creidim go gcaithfear brú níos láidre a chur ar ullmhúcháin le haghaidh an ESA agus gur chóir go mbeadh fócas níos mó ar imeachtaí na coinbhéirseachta.

interim period towards implementation of the Executives decision to establish ESA. I believe there must be a stronger push on the preparations for ESA and a greater focus on the convergence activities.

D'iarr mé ar Chathaoirleach Ainmnithe an ESA, Seán Hogan, ról níos mó a ghlacadh san Idirthréimhse. Gairfidh an Cathaoirleach Ainmnithe cruinnithe do chathaoirligh na mBord Idirthréimhseach agus na gcomhlachtaí oideachais eile, lena chinntiú go mbeidh cur chuige comhordaithe láidir i dtreo choinbhéirseacht na ngníomhaíochtaí.

I have asked the Chairperson Designate of ESA, Sean Hogan, to take on a greater role in the Transitional period. The Chairperson Designate will convene meetings of the chairpersons of the Transitional Boards, and of the other education bodies, to ensure there is a strong co-ordinated approach to the convergence activity.

Cuirfear socruithe bainistíochta feidhmíochta i bhfeidhm do na cathaoirligh ionas go mbeidh fócas soiléir dírithe ar a gcuid oibre.

Performance management arrangements will be put in place for the chairpersons so that there is a clear focus for their work.

Is tábhachtach go bhfuil na Boird Idirthréimhseacha ag obair le chéile ar atheagrú agus soláthar seirbhísí chun trasfhoirmiú agus coinbhéirseacht a éascú. Oibríonn gach Bord le roinnt Coistí a dhéanann feidhmeanna a tharmligeann na Boird.

It is important that the Transitional Boards are working increasingly together on the reorganisation and delivery of services to facilitate transformation and convergence. Each Board currently operates with a number of Committees which perform functions delegated by the Boards.

Beidh mé ag iarraidh ar na Boird Idirthréimhseacha struchtúr Choiste a thabhairt isteach a éascaíonn trasfhoirmiú agus coinbhéirseacht.

I will be asking the Transitional Boards to introduce a Committee structure which helps facilitate transformation and convergence.

Ba mhaith liom a chinntiú go nglacann Príomhfheidhmeannach ainmnithe an ESA, Gavin Boyd, ról níos dírí sna hullmhúcháin. Beidh mé ag cur socruithe i bhfeidhm do na hOifigigh Cuntasaíochta ar na Boird agus ar na forais eile a thugann tuairisc don Roinn tríd an bPríomhfheidhmeannach ainmnithe, atá ina Oifigeach Cuntasaíochta leis an Roinn Oideachais.

I want to ensure that the Chief Executive Designate of ESA, Gavin Boyd, now takes on a much more direct role in the preparations. I will be putting in place arrangements for the Accounting Officers in the Boards and the other bodies affected to report to the Department through Chief Executive Designate, who is an Accounting officer of the Dept of Education.

Beidh mé ag iarraidh ar an Chathaoirleach agus Príomhfheidhmeannach ainmnithe **Plean Soláthair** Choinbhéirseachta a chur le chéile, a leagann amach róil shoiléire cheannasaíochta do Stiúrthóirí nuacheaptha an ESA, agus amscálaí gaolmhara le haghaidh feidhmithe. Ba chóir go gclúdódh an Plean atheagrú fheidhmeanna cúloifige agus bainistíocht sheirbhísí trasteorann, agus an dóigh ina stiúrtar eagraíochtaí atá ann cheana chun eochairpholasaithe a thabhairt ar

I will be asking the Chairperson and Chief Executive Designates to produce a Convergence **Delivery Plan,** with clear leadership roles for the in-coming ESA Directors, and associated timescales for implementation. The Plan should cover reorganisation of back office functions and managing cross-Board services, and also how the existing organisations are directed to drive forward key policies including Every School a Good School, the Entitlement Framework and Area-based Planning and their adherence to

aghaidh, lena n-áirítear Gach Scoil ina Scoil Mhaith, an Creat Teidlíochta agus Pleanáil de réir Ceantair agus a mheid a chloíonn siad le dualgais chomhionannais faoi Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta.

equality duties under the Good Friday Agreement.

San Idirthréimhse, tá maoirseacht airgeadais mhéadaithe ag teastáil ionas go leanaimid lena chinntiú go soláthraítear seirbhísí agus go mbainistítear go cúramach rioscaí ar athrú gan uaim go dtí an ESA. Mar sin de, d'iarr mé ar mo Roinn an tarmligean airgeadais a thugtar do na heagraíochtaí atá ann cheana a athbhreithniú.

In the Transitional period there is a need for increased financial oversight so that we continue to ensure services are delivered and risks to a seamless transition to ESA carefully managed. I have therefore asked my department to review the financial delegations to the existing bodies.

Mar a dúirt mé, is é is aidhm do na socruithe seo ná éiginnteacht a laghdú agus a chinntiú go leanfar le dul chun cinn a dhéanamh roimh bhunú an ESA de réir sprioc shonraithe an Choiste Feidhmiúcháin. Imreoidh Cathaoirleach agus Príomhfheidhmeannach Ainmnithe an ESA ról níos mó don Roinn i dtaca le hobair leis na naoi n-eagraíocht atá ann cheana lena chinntiú go bhfuil cur chuige comhordaithe láidir i dtreo coinbhéirseacht na ngníomhaíochtaí ann.

As I said, these arrangements are all designed to reduce uncertainty and ensure that progress continues to be made until ESA is established in line with the Executive's stated objective. The Chair and Chief Executive Designate of ESA will now play a greater role for the department in working with the nine existing organisations to ensure there is a strong co-ordinated approach to the convergence activity.

Leag mé amach na bearta a chaithfear a chur i bhfeidhm san Idirthréimhse. Tá súil agam go mbeidh sí ina tréimhse an-ghairid. Scrúdóidh mé éifeachtacht na mbeart agus cuirfidh mé athruithe eile leo más gá.

I have set out the measures which need to operate in the Transitional period. I hope that this is a very short period. I will monitor the effectiveness of the measures and supplement them with other changes as necessary.

Níor cheart go mbeadh aon mhoill eile ar dhul chun cinn na reachtaíochta i dtreo aidhm an Choiste Feidhmiúcháin le haghaidh athleasú na seirbhísí oideachais. Ba chóir go n-imreodh gach duine a bhfuil todhchaí an oideachais anseo tábhachtach dóibh a bpáirt féin lena chinntiú go bhfuil an mhoill seo chomh beag agus is féidir.

A further delay in the progress of the legislation towards the Executive objective of reform of education services should not be allowed to occur. All those who have the future of education here at heart should now play their part in ensuring that this delay is minimal.

CRÍOCH

Aguisín A **Appendix A**

Comhaltas na mBord Idirthréimhseach Oideachais agus Leabharlainne

Bord	BELB	SELB	WELB	NEELB	Iomlán
Comhairleoirí	4	6	5	9	24
Aistreoirí & Iontaobhaithe	2	4	3	6	15
Eile	4	5	4	8	21
Iomlán	10	15	12	23	60

Membership of Transitional Education and Library Boards

Board	BELB	SELB	WELB	NEELB	Total
Councillors	4	6	5	9	24
Transferors & Trustees	2	4	3	6	15
Others	4	5	4	8	21
Total	10	15	12	23	60