

## NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week ending 26 June, 2015

### Funding for the Childcare Strategy

<p>AQW 46894/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister how much funding they have identified for the Childcare Strategy.</b></p> <p>The School Age Childcare Grant Scheme was launched in March 2014 and is the most ambitious action of the first phase of the Executive's Childcare Strategy. Its exact funding requirements will depend upon the quality and quantity of the applications submitted and how current and future successful projects progress. The Scheme will be resourced from the £12 million Executive Childcare Fund.</p> <p>The full Childcare Strategy is currently in an advanced stage of development. Its funding requirements will be established and finalised as part of that development process.</p>
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### Timescale for launch of Childcare Strategy

<p>AQW 46893/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the timescale for the launch of the Childcare Strategy.</b></p> <p>The first phase of the Executive's Childcare Strategy was launched in September 2013.</p> <p>A draft version of the full Childcare Strategy has been developed on a co-design basis with childcare stakeholders and all departments who have a policy interest in childcare. The Department intends to publish, in the coming weeks, a consultation document setting out firm policy proposals for childcare. This will include public consultation events and a request for written responses.</p> <p>When the consultation is complete, the draft will be revised to take account of all comments received and we aim to publish the full Strategy before the end of the year.</p>
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## Update on an Equality and Good Relations Commission

<p>AQW 46454/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the establishment of the Equality and Good Relations Commission.</b></p> <p>The draft Bill to establish the Equality and Good Relations Commission is under active consideration within the department.</p> <p>In advance of the enactment of legislation, departmental officials are working with both the Equality Commission and the Community Relations Council to consider the extent to which the aims and objectives of the 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy can be delivered by these respective organisations within their existing vires and remits.</p>
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## Update on UNESCO and child rights indicators

<p>AQW 43433/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister to provide an update on the work undertaken by UNESCO in relation to the child rights indicators.</b></p> <p>We are currently reviewing the child rights indicators identified by UNESCO. It is proposed that the indicators which have been developed will begin to be utilised to measure and report progress in due course, and work is continuing to identify additional measurable indicators. The development of a workable and deliverable Child Rights Indicator Framework is by its nature a 'living' mechanism and best taken forward in partnership with the voluntary and community sector and the Universities.</p>
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## Update on Housing (Anti-Social Behaviour) Bill

<p>AQW 46911/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Paul Frew (DUP - North Antrim)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister for Social Development for an update on the proposed Housing (Anti-Social Behaviour) Bill.</b></p> <p>The proposed Bill is now titled the Housing (Amendment) Bill. It will: require the Department of Finance and Personnel, the Department for Social Development and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to exchange information about empty homes; enable organisations holding information about anti-social behaviour to share such information with social housing landlords by opening relevant data gateways under the Data Protection Act 1998; and enable the Housing Executive to register grants made by way of a loan as statutory charges.</p> <p>All stages of the Bill will need to be completed by the end of the current Assembly's mandate. Introducing the Bill before summer recess will maximise the chance of achieving this.</p>
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## Poverty and social exclusion in Upper Bann

<p>AQW 46603/11- 15</p>	<p>Mrs Dolores Kelly (<i>SDLP - Upper Bann</i>)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the measures delivered to tackle poverty and social exclusion in Upper Bann in each of the last three years.</b></p> <p>Through the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework my department has provided £16 million over the past 4 years to implement a package of measures to help address a range of poverty and social isolation issues for the most vulnerable rural dwellers across the north including: the Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS); the Farm Families Health Checks Programme; funding the Rural Support charity; the installation of heating and insulation measures; a Rural Borewells Scheme; support for rural community development; maximising access to grant, benefits and services in rural areas (MARA Project); broadband service access; rural youth employability and entrepreneurship; the Health in Mind project; and the recently launched micro-grants scheme.</p> <p>All of these initiatives are targeted at making life better for those living in isolated and deprived rural areas of the north including rural dwellers in the Upper Bann area and I have enhanced the associated Programme for Government target spend by £4m this year.</p>
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## Provision in the controlled (education) sector in Belfast

<p>AQO 8475/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Nelson McCausland (<i>DUP - North Belfast</i>)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education, given the oversubscription of a number of schools, for his assessment of the adequacy of provision in the controlled school sector in Belfast.</b></p> <p>There are 1,900 Year 1 controlled primary places available for the 2015/16 school year in the Education Authority's (EA) Belfast region area. This is sufficient capacity to cater for the 1510 first preference applications for Year 1 that the EA has advised were received by controlled primary schools.</p> <p>Turning to post-primary, there are 899 Year 8 controlled post-primary places available with 812 first preference applications for Year 8 being received by these schools. This figure includes both controlled Grammar schools and controlled Secondary schools, but not voluntary Grammar schools.</p> <p>I am aware of the recent media interest and concern about the availability of adequate post-primary places particularly within the East Belfast area.</p>
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		<p>In 2013, the then Belfast Education and Library Board and the South Eastern Education and Library Board published six development proposals to reshape post-primary provision in the greater East Belfast area. However, I did not consider that the proposals represented the best area solution for all post-primary pupils. I could not therefore approve all of the proposals at that time.</p> <p>I commissioned the Boards to undertake an audit of provision, in order to more accurately underpin the next phase of provision. This work is currently underway and I am expecting the Education Authority to submit a progress report to me in the near future.</p> <p>I can also confirm that in the post-primary sector only one controlled school in Belfast approached the Department to request a temporary variation to its admissions number. That request was granted.</p>
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### Plan for Early Years funding after August 2015

<p>AQO 8473/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Alex Maskey (SF - West Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education for an update on his plans to continue Early Years funding after August 2015.</b></p> <p>The Executive's Budget has been reduced by the Westminster Government by £1.5bn over the last five years and as a direct result of this reduction, I have had to reduce the budget for the Early Years Fund in 2015/16. I have endeavoured to minimise the impact as far as possible by ensuring that all groups that currently benefit from the Early Years Fund will continue to receive funding to the end of August 2015.</p> <p>As I have previously outlined, the Fund cannot continue in its current 'closed' format as this is inequitable to those groups that cannot access it, but may be equally as deserving of its funding.</p> <p>However, I recognise the compelling nature of the arguments for investing meaningfully in early years programmes and I want to do more in this area. This all depends, of course, on there being available funding.</p> <p>If there is, then it is my intention that a new Pathway Fund would replace the current Early Years Fund with awards being made from April 2016 onwards. The Pathway Fund would be open to all providers of Early Years education. I am also reviewing my budgets for this current financial year to see whether there is any scope to support those providers whose funding is due to end in August 2015 for the bridging period until the new Pathway Fund is established.</p>
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		<p>I have therefore made a bid in the June Monitoring round for £2m to fund this interim programme and this will be considered by the Executive as part of the overall monitoring round decisions.</p> <p>I can make no promises – this is an incredibly difficult financial environment – but I can and will commit to exploring all possibilities.</p>
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### Consultation on new youth policy

AQW 47634/11- 15	Mr David McIlveen (DUP - North Antrim)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to outline his strategy for completing a consultation on the new youth policy, including (i) the timeframe; and (ii) how his Department will ensure young people from a wide range of backgrounds are consulted. [Priority Written]</b></p> <p>On 20 April 2015, I issued a press release launching the Consultation on the Future of the Youth Council to consider how support and funding for all youth services might be delivered through the Education Authority. The consultation will run until the 3 July after which time I will consider the responses received before deciding on the best way forward.</p> <p>Consultation documents are available on the Department of Education's website <a href="http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/support-and-development-2/youth-service/content-newpage-20.htm">http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/support-and-development-2/youth-service/content-newpage-20.htm</a> . Notification of the consultation has also been circulated widely to the interested stakeholders within both the voluntary and statutory youth sectors who work on behalf of, or with, children and young people, asking them to respond to the consultation.</p>
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### Awarding public appointments to young people

AQW 47568/11- 15	Mr David McIlveen (DUP - North Antrim)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education what targets his Department has on awarding public appointments to young people.</b></p> <p>My Department is committed to the principles of public appointments based on merit with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process and, in making appointments, follows the guidance set out in the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. In that respect, my Department is also committed to providing equality of opportunity for all applicants and to improving diversity and eradicating under-representation on the boards of its Arm's Length Bodies. Applications are welcomed from all backgrounds and whilst no specific targets are set for young people appointments, the application documentation makes clear that applications are particularly welcome from women, people under 30 years of age, members of ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.</p>
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### Private diagnosis for assessment of Special Educational Needs

<p>AQW 47495/11- 15</p>	<p>Mrs Dolores Kelly (<i>SDLP - Upper Bann</i>)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the duty of a primary school with regards to a private diagnosis according to the Code Of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs where a parent has waited over 12 months for an autism assessment from the National Health Service for their child and subsequently receives a private diagnosis.</b></p> <p>Addressing the special educational needs (SEN) of a child is not dependent upon receipt of a medical diagnosis and any necessary interventions will be based upon the child's learning needs. The Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs, in recognising that there is a continuum of needs, sets out a five stage approach to the identification of children having learning difficulties, the assessment of their SEN and the making of whatever provision is necessary to meet those needs. Any private diagnosis received will be considered by the child's school and/or the Education Authority as part of that five stage approach.</p>
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### Transport to proposed Irish medium schools near Dungiven

<p>AQW 47451/11- 15</p>	<p>Mrs Sandra Overend (<i>UUP - Mid Ulster</i>)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education outline how many pupils currently being transported to the Irish Medium School in Belfast will not receive travel assistance if the proposed Irish Medium School opens near Dungiven due to their relative proximity to Dungiven.</b></p> <p>Under the current policy, eligible pupils do not have to attend their nearest suitable school in the category chosen by their parents. Also, no eligible pupil, regardless of the category of school they attend, will lose their eligibility by reason of the opening of a nearer school in the same category. This is because such pupils were assessed and assisted prior to the nearer school being opened. Accordingly, no pupil currently assisted with transport to Coláiste Feirste in Belfast will lose their eligibility following the opening of Coláiste Dhoire in Dungiven.</p>
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### Update on Regional Youth Development Plan 2016-19

<p>AQW 47427/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (<i>IND - East Londonderry</i>)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education for an update on any progress made on the Regional Youth Development Plan for 2016-2019.</b></p> <p>Work on the development of the next Regional Youth Development Plan will be taken forward jointly by the Education Authority and the Youth Council, with input from the Regional Advisory Group, comprising young people, voluntary and statutory stakeholders.</p>
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## Number of parents referred to the dispute resolution service

AQW 47345/11- 15	Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of parents that received a draft statement of special educational needs for their child and were referred to the dispute resolution service, broken down by each region of the Education Authority in each of the last five years.</b></p> <p>The Education Authority has advised that the number of cases that were referred to the Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Service following receipt of a draft statement, but not yet a final statement, of special educational needs in the last five academic years, was as follows:</p>																																				
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2010/11</th> <th>2011/12</th> <th>2012/13</th> <th>2013/14</th> <th>2014/15*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Belfast</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>**</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>North East</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>South East</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>**</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Southern</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>**</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>**</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Western</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15*	<b>Belfast</b>	0	0	0	0	**	<b>North East</b>	0	0	0	0	0	<b>South East</b>	0	0	0	**	0	<b>Southern</b>	0	**	0	0	**	<b>Western</b>	0	0	0	0	0
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<p>*to date **denotes fewer than 5 pupils suppressed due to possible identification of individual pupils.</p>																																						

## Number of statements maintained by Boards in last ten years

AQW 47343/1 1-15	Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of statements that were maintained by (i) all regions of the Education Authority; and (ii) the previous Education and Library Boards in each of the last ten years.</b></p> <p>The regions of the Education Authority are the same as the previous Education and Library Boards, so only one table is provided overleaf.</p> <p><b><u>Pupils with a statement of special educational needs by Education Authority region / former Education and Library Board, 2005/06 – 2014/15</u></b></p>
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	<b>Belfa st</b>	<b>Wester n</b>	<b>North Easter n</b>	<b>South Easter n</b>	<b>Souther n</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2005/0 6</b>	1,651	2,019	2,368	3,288	2,687	12,013
<b>2006/0 7</b>	1,790	2,064	2,446	3,341	2,850	12,491
<b>2007/0 8</b>	1,951	2,151	2,504	3,302	3,066	12,974
<b>2008/0 9</b>	2,094	2,133	2,548	3,235	3,261	13,271
<b>2009/1 0</b>	2,309	2,144	2,577	3,210	3,334	13,574
<b>2010/1 1</b>	2,479	2,217	2,634	3,260	3,308	13,898
<b>2011/1 2</b>	2,584	2,261	2,667	3,254	3,324	14,090
<b>2012/1 3</b>	2,739	2,358	2,840	3,215	3,402	14,554
<b>2013/1 4</b>	2,901	2,545	2,925	3,400	3,478	15,249
<b>2014/1 5</b>	3,151	2,693	3,068	3,546	3,520	15,978

Source: NI school census

Notes:

Figures include funded children in voluntary and private preschools, nursery schools, primary (including nursery, reception and year 1-7 classes), post primary and special schools.

Figures include pupils at stage 5 on the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice



### Complaints regarding statementing process

<p>AQW 47341/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of children that complained to his Department or the former Education and Library Boards because their views were not considered in the statementing process, in each of the last five years.</b></p> <p>No children have submitted written complaints to either my department or the former Education and Library Boards, because their views were not considered in the statementing process, within last five years.</p>
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### Funding of school meals for pupils up to seven years

<p>AQW 47337/11- 15</p>	<p>Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson (UUP - Upper Bann)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the level of funding provided by his Department to cover the costs of school meals for pupils up to seven years of age in each of the last three years.</b></p> <p>Resourcing of the schools catering service is a matter for the Education Authority (previously the Education and Library Boards) which it funds through its block grant allocation provided by the Department. The block grant funds a number of central services including school meals and the Authority decides on the level of funding required for each service. The Chief Executive of the Education Authority has advised that it cannot provide a breakdown of funding for the schools catering service by age group.</p>
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### Funding for specialist drugs or addiction awareness outreach in schools

<p>AQW 47256/11- 15</p>	<p>Lord Morrow of Clogher Valley (DUP - Fermanagh and South Tyrone)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to outline what funding is available through his Department for providing specialist drugs or addiction awareness outreach in schools.</b></p> <p>The Department of Education does not make funding available for providing specialist drugs or addiction awareness outreach in schools. Schools have discretion to use their delegated budget on resources or programmes they wish to use to support their delivery of the curriculum.</p> <p>Opportunities for young people to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to deal with issues such as drug addiction are available through the curriculum.</p>
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## Quality and success of interventions leading to counselling referrals

<p>AQW 47160/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education what steps his Department has taken to monitor the quality and success of interventions leading to counselling referrals within primary and special schools.</b></p> <p>The provision of a counselling service in primary schools is not yet determined.</p> <p>ICSS provision was extended into special schools with a post-primary cohort, from January 2011.</p> <p>ICSS service in special schools has been fully utilised since January 2011 and a 2013 audit questionnaire, completed by over 65% of special schools, showed that all respondents appreciated the service.</p> <p>Of the 65% of special schools that responded 100% stated that the service was of benefit to their pupils with over 90% of these returns expressing thanks for the support.</p> <p>The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out “An Evaluation of the Independent Counselling Service for Schools” in 2009. Their key findings showed an increasing demand and need by young people for a counselling service in most of the schools participating in this evaluation and that the professional independent counselling service provides an essential support for many young people in schools and is an integral aspect of pastoral care provision in most post primary schools.</p> <p>The above findings are corroborated by “A Survey of Young People’s Views on Accessing Counselling in Schools”, carried out by youth@clc at the Children’s Law Centre in Belfast in 2012. The survey showed that “students surveyed thought the provision of counselling in schools was a necessary and important service which should continue to be available. Of those who had used it, the majority found it to be beneficial in helping them to cope with a range of issues impacting on their mental and emotional well being”. The service was viewed as helping young people to resolve problems, giving meaningful advice, helped to build confidence and deal with stress and assisted in overcoming anger problems. 71% of students surveyed agreed that the counselling service can ‘prevent small problems getting bigger’. The majority of students surveyed thought the provision of counselling in schools was a necessary and important service which should continue to be available.</p>
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## Funding to primary and special school counselling

<p>AQW 47159/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to ask what funding has been allocated to primary and special school counselling provision since the Audit of Counselling and Other Therapeutic Interventions in Primary and Special Schools, in October 2009.</b></p> <p>The 'Audit into the Counselling and Therapeutic Needs of the Primary and Special Schools Sector' was published in September 2009 and while the Audit and its headline findings were extremely helpful in identifying issues of concern it did not provide a clear direction of travel for counselling in the primary or special schools sectors.</p> <p>A further scoping study covering all special schools was completed in February 2010. Following a public tendering process ICSS provision was extended into special schools with a post-primary cohort, from January 2011. The provision of a counselling service in primary schools is not yet determined.</p> <p>Funding allocated for special school counselling provision is set out in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="563 1137 1394 1765"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Year</th> <th>Special School Expenditure</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010/11 (January 2011 – March 2011)</td> <td>£81,898.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>£386,504</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>£359,688</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>£402,556</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>£342,577.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/16 (@mid-June 2015)</td> <td>£50,978.54</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Year	Special School Expenditure	2010/11 (January 2011 – March 2011)	£81,898.96	2011/12	£386,504	2012/13	£359,688	2013/14	£402,556	2014/15	£342,577.36	2015/16 (@mid-June 2015)	£50,978.54
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## Analysis of the number of suitably trained counsellors and therapists

<p>AQW 47155/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education whether his Department has conducted an analysis of the number of suitably trained counsellors and therapists since the Audit of Counselling and Other Therapeutic Interventions in Primary and Special Schools, in October 2009.</b></p> <p>The Department introduced a counselling service in special schools in January 2011. A requirement of the contract is that the provider must employ suitably qualified and experienced counsellors who have experience of delivering counselling to young people with a statement of special educational needs, aged 11 to 20, for a period of no less than 2 years in the last 3 years.</p> <p>The Department has publicly outlined its aim to extend counselling provision into primary schools however this has not been possible to date due to other priorities. The aim, however, is to commence a scoping study to outline possible models for primary school counselling within this business year. The ICSS Regional Coordinator maintains contact with the various universities and colleges involved in training counsellors and research into the number of suitably trained counsellors available will form part of the scoping exercise and will be included as a requirement in the subsequent tendering process.</p>
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## Pupils-teacher ratios

<p>AQW 47130 /11-15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education the pupil-teacher ratio for (i) Controlled grammar and secondary; (ii) Voluntary grammar; (iii) Maintained secondary; (iv) Integrated secondary; and (v) Irish Medium secondary schools, in each of the last ten years.</b></p> <p>The following table details the pupil:teacher ratio in post-primary schools over the past ten years.</p> <p><b>Table 1: Pupil:teacher ratios by school management type, 2005/06 – 2014/15</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 1563 1441 1982"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Control led<sup>1</sup></th> <th>Voluntary</th> <th>Catholic Maintained<sup>1</sup></th> <th>Other Maintained<sup>1</sup></th> <th>Integrated<sup>2</sup></th> <th>Irish Medium</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>2005 /06</b></td> <td>14.5</td> <td>15.2</td> <td>13.8</td> <td>12.7</td> <td>13.8</td> <td>12.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>2006 /07</b></td> <td>14.6</td> <td>15.2</td> <td>13.9</td> <td>13.1</td> <td>13.8</td> <td>13.1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Control led <sup>1</sup>	Voluntary	Catholic Maintained <sup>1</sup>	Other Maintained <sup>1</sup>	Integrated <sup>2</sup>	Irish Medium	<b>2005 /06</b>	14.5	15.2	13.8	12.7	13.8	12.7	<b>2006 /07</b>	14.6	15.2	13.9	13.1	13.8	13.1
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<b>2007 /08</b>	14.4	15.2	14.0	13.7	13.7	13.7
<b>2008 /09</b>	14.4	15.1	14.1	11.3	13.6	11.3
<b>2009 /10</b>	14.6	15.1	14.4	12.5	13.9	12.5
<b>2010 /11</b>	14.7	15.3	14.2	12.6	14.0	12.6
<b>2011 /12</b>	14.7	15.6	14.3	12.6	14.3	12.6
<b>2012 /13</b>	15.3	16.1	14.7	12.6	14.7	12.6
<b>2013 /14</b>	15.3	16.3	14.8	13.2	14.7	13.2
<b>2014 /15</b>	15.1	16.1	14.6	13.1	14.3	13.1

Irish medium schools are included in the Irish medium category and in their respective management type.  
Includes Controlled Integrated and Grant Maintained Integrated schools.

### Responsibility of principals in ensuring there is no bullying in schools

AQW 45878/11- 15	Mr Alex Easton (DUP - North Down)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the responsibility of principals in ensuring there is no bullying in schools.</b></p> <p>Bullying, in whatever form and for whatever reason, has no place in schools. Under Article 3 of the Education (NI) Order 1998 as amended by Article 19 (3) of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003, all schools are required to have a discipline and good behaviour policy which addresses how the school will respond to incidents or complaints of bullying.</p> <p>This policy must be developed with input from pupils and their parents and must be readily accessible. Principals and Boards of Governors (BoG) are required to adhere to the school's policy when responding to a complaint of bullying.</p>
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		<p>Typically an anti-bullying policy will ask parents to raise their initial concerns with a teacher and/or the school Principal. If they are unhappy with the school's subsequent actions they can then escalate their complaint by writing to the BoG. The governors will then review the complaint and determine if school policies have been correctly observed.</p> <p>The precise nature of these arrangements is, however, a matter for each school to decide and not one in which the Department has any specific role. Through its support and funding for the regional Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF), however, DE seeks to continue to raise awareness of the problem and provide practical support, resources and guidance on best-practice to all schools, parents and pupils.</p>
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### Ability of the Treasury to repay £100m treasury loan

AQW 47227/11- 15	Mr John McCallister (IND - South Down)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail any discussions she has had with Treasury officials whether the flexibility (i) to repay the £100 million treasury loan; and (ii) to raise £114 million by asset sales and capital budgets is now no longer available.</b></p> <p>I recently met with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury Greg Hands MP to discuss the flexibilities around the Stormont House Agreement. There remains a material risk that the flexibilities around the repayment of the £100 million Reserve claim and the associated use of capital asset sales will not be available to the Executive should the Stormont House Agreement not be implemented in full.</p>
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### Development of a cross-departmental internet safety strategy

AQW 47011/11- 15	Mrs Sandra Overend (UUP - Mid Ulster)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Justice how his Department is contributing to the development of a cross-departmental internet safety strategy.</b></p> <p>I and my Department take our internet safety responsibilities extremely seriously and, along with our community safety partners and criminal justice agencies, deliver a range of projects and initiatives to promote internet safety. We are also actively involved in the ongoing development of internet safety strategy with other Departments and bodies.</p> <p>Operationally, through my Department's Asset Recovery Community Scheme, a number of Police and Community Safety Partnerships have received funding to deliver a Cybersafe project educating primary school children in the importance of e-safety.</p>
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		<p>Other PSCPs have been delivering initiatives such as an e-crime drama workshop, a Webwise project on cyber-bullying, and internet safety talks – many in conjunction with community groups.</p> <p>PSNI also works closely with PCSPs to deliver internet safety days, computer awareness plays in local schools, and a Chat, Share and Think project.</p> <p>Strategically my Department is regularly involved in discussions with other Departments and Agencies as to how we might better educate young people of the importance of internet safety. My Department plays a part in the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and, along with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, is an active partner in developing Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Vulnerable Adults.</p> <p>The PSNI, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland and the Youth Justice Agency are members of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland. I am aware that the Board is currently reviewing its e-strategy.</p> <p>Internet crime is a challenge that knows no Departmental boundaries or jurisdictions. My Department and the criminal justice agencies play a full part, both operationally and strategically, in facing up to this challenge.</p>
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