

NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week ending 21 August, 2015

Number of OFMDFM staff including ALBs

Mr
Samuel
Gardiner
MBE
(UUP -
Upper
Bann)

To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the total (i) number of full time equivalent employees; and (ii) salary costs as of 1 April in each financial year from 2007, broken down by (a) their Department; and (b) each of their Department's arm's-length bodies.

Information on Departmental staffing and salary costs for the core Department is shown below.

Figure s at 1 April each year	20 07	20 08	20 09	20 10	20 11	20 12	20 13	20 14	2015
Staff in the Depart ment (FTE)	36 0.6	37 5.4	36 7.4	34 1.9	32 3.6	32 2.8	35 1.9	34 8.8	345. 5
Salary Costs 2	15. 2m	15. 9m	15. 6m	15. 1m	15. 5m	16. 4m	17. 8m	18. 2m	Esti mate d 17.8 m

Staff figures are provided by NISRA and do not include vacancies or temporary staff eg secondees or agency workers.

2 Salary costs are for the full financial year and represent total cost. This therefore includes temporary staff, overtime costs, secondees, employer costs e.g. pension contributions etc. In recent years the Department has taken on additional responsibility for a number of Executive priority areas including;

the development and implementation of Together: Building a United Community;
The Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry;
Investment of the Social Protection Fund and the Social Investment Fund; and,
Implementation of a Childcare Strategy.

Additional resources including staffing were requested and approved in order to take this work forward.

It is also important to recognise that the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister covers a wide range of functions, many of them conferred on it by statute, including sponsorship of 13 Arm's Length Bodies (NI Memorial Fund and ERINI have been wound up) and that much of our work facilitates the business of other Ministers and their Departments.

As part of the plans to reduce the NICS from 12 Departments to 9, it is expected that the current staffing and financial costs will be significantly reduced when The Executive Office is formed.

Information on staff and salary costs in arms length bodies is shown below.

		20 07	20 08	20 09	20 10	20 11	20 12	20 13	20 14	20 15
Office of the Attorn ey Gener al	St aff	-	-	-	-	19	16	15	15	14
	Sa lar y	-	-	-	-	63 9k	96 2k	1. 04 m	1. 09 m	1. 18 m
Planni ng & Water Appe als Com missio ns	St aff	-	-	39 .4	39 .4	37 .1	37 .3	35 .6	35 .6	33 .4
	Sa lar y	-	-	1. 79 m	1. 94 m	2. 01 m	1. 95 m	1. 85 m	1. 87 m	1. 81 m
Com missio n for Victim	St aff	-	-	4	7	11	11	10	9	11

	s & Survivors									
	Salary	-	-	301k	477k	531k	596k	423k	405k	414k
	Victims & Survivors Service									
	Staff	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.7	40	32.5
	Salary	-	-	-	-	-	-	577k	1.36m	1.28m
	Community Relations Council									
	Staff	36	35	42	40	51	53	44	33	23
	Salary	1.19m	1.29m	1.53m	1.83m	1.43m	1.92m	1.61m	1.31m	945k
	NI Memorial Fund									
	Staff	6	6	6	6	6	6	3	3	-
	Salary	180k	170k	157k	168k	166k	163k	139k	50k	-
	Commissio									
	Staff	-	-	4.4	4.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	2.4	2.4

	ner for Public Appoi ntmen ts										
	Sal lar y	-	-	15 0k	15 6k	14 0k	96 k	13 4k	11 6k	10 7k	
	NI Judici al Appoi ntmen ts Com missio n										
	St aff 3	-	-	-	-	17 .2	16 .7	15 .1	12 .2	10 .8	
	Sal lar y	-	-	-	-	77 7k	78 1k	72 0k	69 2k	60 3k	
	Equali ty Com missio n NI										
	St aff 3	13 1. 1	12 6. 5	13 4	13 1. 5	12 3. 1	11 8. 5	11 2	10 9	95 .8	
	Sal lar y	4. 26 m	4. 29 m	4. 57 m	4. 75 m	4. 68 m	4. 55 m	4. 63 m	4. 49 m	4. 46 m	
	Com missio ner for Older Peopl e										
	St aff	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	14	

	Salary	-	-	-	-	-	30k	92k	219k	556k
Commissioner for Children & Young People	Staff 3	26	25	28	26	24.5	23.5	23.5	24.5	24.5
	Salary	895k	910k	906k	950k	1.05m	958k	1.07m	1.04m	1.04m
Strategic Investment Board	Staff 3	28	26	29	33	34	44	63	73	81
	Salary	2.55m	2.35m	2.44m	2.25m	2.42m	2.81m	3.95m	5.11m	6.28m
Ilex Urban Regeneration Company	Staff	8	11	15	16	23	27	29	28	23
	Salary	480k	682k	764k	962k	947k	1.59m	1.44m	1.51m	1.33m
Mezzo	St							11	12	7

Long Kesh Development Corporation	aff 3									
	Salary	-	-	-	-	-	-	578k	983k	783k
Economic Research Institute NI	Staff	-	14	13	13	12	4	-	-	-
	Salary	-	755k	714k	704k	651k	338k	-	-	-

3 Includes temporary/agency staff

Update on plans for Strategy for Children and Young People

AQO 8435/11-15	Mr Alastair Ross (DUP - East Antrim)	<p>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on their plans to replace the current Strategy for Children and Young People, which is due to end in 2016.</p> <p>The process to develop the new Children and Young People's Strategy is underway. This has included planning how the development of the new Strategy will be taken forward through a co-design process.</p> <p>Some of the actions we have taken to date include an internal stock take of the existing strategy; identification of all relevant stakeholders; and preliminary engagement with sector representatives to discuss how to ensure the Strategy can be developed in the best interests of children and young</p>	11/06/2015	27/07/2015
----------------	--------------------------------------	---	------------	------------

		<p>people within our society.</p> <p>As a result of the initial engagement to date a number of key issues have emerged that will support more extensive discussion. It is our intention that the new Strategy will be designed and developed in co-operation with children and young people; parents and representative community and voluntary organisations.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--

Development of a cross-departmental internet safety strategy

AQW 47014/11- 15	Mrs Sandra Overend (UUP - Mid Ulster)	<p>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister how their Department is contributing to the development of a cross-departmental internet safety strategy.</p> <p>The Department works on a cross-departmental basis with other relevant departments and agencies which have a remit for policing, regulating and raising public awareness around internet use in order to protect children and young people online.</p> <p>Following the Executive's decision taken on 29 January 2015 to commission the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) to develop an e-safety strategy, the Department has agreed to contribute £12,000 to this exercise.</p> <p>The Department will also contribute to the development of the cross-departmental internet safety strategy through its participation in the meetings of the Ministerial Coordination Group on Suicide Prevention where the issue of internet safety is considered.</p>	10/06/2015	27/07/2015
------------------------	--	---	------------	------------

Action to encourage young people to consider a career in agriculture

<p>AQW 48112/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Stephen Moutray (DUP - Upper Bann)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department is taking to encourage young people to consider a career in agriculture.</p> <p>My Department, through the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise, (CAFRE), delivers a planned programme of recruitment activities to encourage young people to consider a career in Agriculture. The programme provides information about Agriculture education programmes at Further and Higher Education level at CAFRE. It also highlights career opportunities in the agriculture industry. This information is provided by CAFRE staff through a number of channels including:-</p> <p>careers talks to pupils in post primary schools, at careers fairs and careers conventions; open days at CAFRE Campuses; public events such as Balmoral Show; the College prospectus which provides course information and student / graduate profiles; the CAFRE website and social media pages; and local press articles.</p>
---------------------------------	--	--

Comparative cost per pupil for NI with rest of the UK

<p>AQW 48185/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr John McCallister (IND - South Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education for a comparative breakdown of the cost per pupil with England, Scotland and Wales.</p> <p>My Department does not hold information on comparative costs per pupil. It is difficult to make meaningful comparisons of per pupil funding across different regions because the other jurisdictions calculate these figures using different categories and different elements within those categories. Differences in levels of delegation and in arrangements for distribution of central funding add a further layer of complexity. Some funding streams do not have equivalents across the countries and differences in spend must be considered in the context of different levels of relative need.</p>
---------------------------------	---	---

Interim evaluation of the Pathways to Success strategy

<p>AQW 47839/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 47059/11-15, whether the formal interim evaluation of the Pathways to Success strategy included questions which specifically asked young people and the organisations representing them for their assessment of the Pathways for Young People Education Maintenance Allowance.</p> <p>The formal interim evaluation conducted a range of investigations with young people, both individually and collectively as part of the Youth Forum, and the organisations representing them. It did not directly pose questions regarding Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), but rather sought to draw out the opinions of individuals and groups on incentives to participation. It did not find any significant opinion, either way, on the issue of financial incentives being useful or not in attracting young people</p>
---------------------------------	--	---

Specialist services for children with ADHD

<p>AQW 48027/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what strategies his Department has in place for the provision of specialist services for children with Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder.</p> <p>There are no specific strategies for the provision of specialist services for children with Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) For children and young people under the age of 18, ADHD services are provided by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), which liaise closely with other relevant health and social services, and external agencies such as education. Interventions for children with ADHD include psychological therapies, behaviour management strategies and, in some cases, medical intervention.</p>
---------------------------------	--	--

Progress on Paediatric cardiac surgery arrangements

<p>AQW 47992/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Gordon Dunne (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of progress on the Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Surgery arrangements which are now in place with the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>The all-island Congenital Heart Disease Network Board has met monthly since April 2015. The Board has formed subgroups to plan and implement the phased transfer of surgery and cardiac catheterisation to Dublin from Belfast. All Northern Ireland patients requiring cardiac catheterisation now undergo this procedure in Dublin.</p>
---------------------------------	---	---

		<p>Arrangements are also in place for any emergency cases, as well as babies who are fetally diagnosed in Belfast with heart conditions, to be transferred to Dublin as required. The appointment of an additional Family Liaison Nurse and a Network Manager is expected this month. Good progress is therefore being made with implementing the International Working Group's recommendations. However, we remain reliant on the majority of elective procedures being carried out by specialist heart centres in England until sufficient capacity has been developed in Dublin to accommodate Northern Ireland patients. In addition to this, a Northern Ireland Implementation Subgroup is planning the implementation of proposals put forward by Belfast Trust cardiologists to strengthen the Northern Ireland hub in the all-island network.</p>
--	--	---

Update on establishing a NI Youth Assembly

<p>AQW 47650/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Assembly Commission for an update on the establishment of a Northern Ireland Youth Assembly.</p> <p>Due to financial constraints, the Assembly was unable to proceed with plans to establish a Youth Assembly.</p> <p>In 2010, a Youth Panel of 30 16 to 18 year olds was recruited to develop proposals for a Youth Assembly. Following a year of research and consultation, the Youth Panel presented its proposals to the Assembly Commission. To date, funds have not been available to implement these proposals.</p> <p>The Assembly Commission remains committed to engaging with young people. The Education Service continues to work with schools and the youth sector to increase young people's understanding of the work of the Assembly and encourage engagement in the democratic process. The 'Let's Talk' series of events brings young people and politicians together for panel question and answer sessions and round table discussions. The Education Service has been working closely with Assembly Committees to consult young people about legislation and inquiry issues. It has recently assisted the Education Committee on its inquiries into Shared and Integrated Education, and the Education and Training Inspectorate; the OFMdFM Committee on the Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) Strategy; and the Environment Committee on the Road Traffic Bill's proposals regarding learner and new drivers. The Assembly Commission is keen to encourage more of this kind of engagement.</p>
---------------------------------	--	---

		<p>The Speaker has engaged with his counterpart in the Welsh Assembly, Dame Rosemary Butler, to learn from work there to move from a youth Assembly model towards developing wider youth outreach initiatives. The Speaker has also had initial discussions with the new Children’s Commissioner about how such an approach might be preferable by engaging a greater number of young people in the mainstream work of the Assembly and its committees. Another development is the recent successful application for European Union Erasmus+ funding for a ‘structured dialogue’ participation project, called ‘Connections’. The project is currently underway and involves 36 participants, aged 16 to 18, who chose an issue of importance to young people of Mental Health, will investigate this issue and present findings to the relevant committee or committees and to young people. The aim of the project is to bring young people into meaningful discussions with decision makers. The project will run to January 2016. The Assembly Commission intends to seek further funding for a similar project, partnering with two other legislatures.</p> <p>The Assembly Commission’s Engagement Strategy 2015-16 includes a commitment to “build partnerships with relevant stakeholders to create and improve engagement opportunities with citizens and under-represented groups”. To deliver this, the Education Service will be increasing the level of outreach to young people not in formal education. The Service will also work with others to learn from innovative approaches to youth engagement at local government level and in other legislatures.</p>
--	--	--