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Office of First and Deputy First Minister

Staff Employed by OFMDFM Department

Mr Jim Allister (TUV – North Antrim) – To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the current number of staff employed in their Department, broken down by the sections or areas in which they work.

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: At 27 October 2014 there were 367 staff employed in the Department; the breakdown by business area is shown below;

Directorate	Number of staff (headcount)
Office of the Head of the Civil Service	7
Resources, Regeneration, International Relations & Institutional Review	99
Executive Services	55
Executive Information Service	36
North/South Ministerial Council	12
Equality & Strategy	124
Office of the Legislative Council	17
Planning Appeals Commission and Water Appeals Commission (PACWAC)	15
Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments	2
Total	367

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Together: Building a United Community

Mr Gerry Kelly (Sinn Féin – North Belfast) – To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the progress being made on the United Youth programme of Together: Building a United Community.

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The first phase of the Bright Start Childcare Strategy includes a number of Key First Actions aimed at addressing rural childcare needs. These include actions to create up to 1,000 new childminder places in rural areas and up to 1,000 centre-based school age childcare places serving rural communities.

Work to develop the Bright Start rural childminder initiative is currently underway. With regard to school age childcare, a first round of applications to the Bright Start School Age Grant Scheme has resulted in grants worth more than £400,000 being approved for rural childcare settings. These will, over a three year period, support some 360 childcare places aimed at children in the 4-14 age group.

Work to develop the full Bright Start Childcare Strategy is currently underway. Officials are engaging with key childcare stakeholders, region-wide, on the content of the Strategy. When this is complete, we will proceed to public consultation with a view to launching the final Strategy in the new year. **(12th November)**

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Department of Education

Grammar School Education

Mr John McCallister (IND – South Down) – To ask the Minister of Education to detail the a) number; and b) percentage of children who have not continued education in grammar schools after AS level in the last five years.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): The information contained in the table below includes year 13 grammar pupils leaving the school system and those year 13 pupils leaving grammar schools and enrolling in other schools to continue their education.

Due to the nature of these data, it is not possible to determine how many of these year 13 pupils were enrolled on an AS level course.

Number and percentage of year 13 pupils leaving grammar schools 2008/09 to 2012/13

2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12		2012/13	
No	%								
500	5.8	505	5.8	542	6.2	591	6.7	563	6.4

Source: School Leavers Survey (11th November)

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Special School Provision

Miss Michelle McIlveen (DUP – Strangford) - To ask the Minister of Education when he intends to publish the regional plan for Special School provision.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): I commissioned a review of special needs provision, the purpose of which was to undertake an assessment of existing provision and recommended a regional plan for the future structure and provision of Special Schools. The review group is due to present its report to me in the near future. I will wish to take time to consider it. (11th November)

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Responsibilities of the Proposed Education Authority

Miss Michelle McIlveen (DUP – Strangford) - To ask the Minister of Education what responsibilities the proposed Education Authority would have in relation to Area Planning

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): The new Education Authority will assume, unchanged, the powers, duties and responsibilities of the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs), including those in relation to Area Planning. There will be no change to the Sustainable Schools Policy or terms of reference for area planning as a result of the Authority’s establishment (**11th November**)

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Area Planning Steering Group

Miss Michelle McIlveen (DUP – Strangford) – To ask the Minister of Education what priority areas have been identified in the work programme of the Area Planning Steering Group.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): The work of the Area Planning Steering Group is focused on embedding a single approach to area planning and implementation across all existing organisations and identifying priority areas for action in the short and medium term. The Group is currently dealing with a number of key issues.

The development of revised area planning structures and governance arrangements in advance of the new Authority. The group’s recommendations are due to be presented to me shortly. The development of new practical guidance to support the school amalgamation process.

Its future work will include consideration of the process for reviewing and revising the Area Plans. (**11th November**)

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Integrated Education

Mr Trevor Lunn (APNI – Lagan Valley) – To ask the Minister of Education what role the Education Authority and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools have in planning for integrated education, given their capacity as Planning Authorities; and what accountability his Department has in ensuring Planning Authorities plan for integrated education.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): The new Authority will assume, unchanged, the powers, duties and responsibilities of the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs), including those in relation to Area Planning. Until the new body is established, responsibility for Area Planning for all sectors, including the Integrated sector, remains with those bodies with statutory responsibility for planning, i.e. the ELBs (and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) in relation to planning for the Catholic Maintained sector.)

However, the Terms of Reference for Area Planning recognise that the other sectoral bodies have an important contribution to make, and it is an explicit requirement that they be involved in the process. It is important, therefore, that those representing the integrated sector make a robust case in discussions with the Boards and CCMS to ensure that genuine need for local expansion in the sector is reflected in the area plans.

The Department’s role in the process is one of scrutiny and challenge. To this end, Departmental officials meet representatives of the Boards and CCMS to discuss and examine area plans prior to and following public consultation.

Also, the Chief Executive of NICIE is a member the Area Planning Steering Group which provides a platform for regular engagement with the Department on strategic issues relating to Area Planning. **(11th November)**

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Catholic Maintained School Estates

Mr Trevor Lunn (APNI – Lagan Valley) – To ask the Minister of Education how many Catholic Maintained School Estates are wholly owned by the Catholic Church

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): There are currently 482 schools under Catholic Trusteeship. These schools are all vested in the Department of Education, which enables the Department to pay capital grants in respect of them. **(11th November)**

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Lisanelly Campus

Mr Trevor Lunn (APNI – Lagan Valley) – To ask the Minister of Education whether the schools on the Lisanelly campus will own their own school site.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): My officials are working with the relevant school managing authorities on a broad range of matters, including how the campus will be governed and managed. The issue of ownership is being taken forward as part of that work. Discussion on ownership are at an early stage and no decisions have been taken **(11th November)**

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Nursery Schools/Nursery Units

Mr Nelson McCausland (DUP – North Belfast) – To ask the Minister of Education to detail the new nursery schools and nursery units that have been established in the past ten years; and the year in which each of them opened.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): The following table provides details of all new nursery schools and nursery units attached to primary schools that have opened in the past ten years following the publication and approval of a Development Proposal under Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986:

School	ELB Area	School Type	Year Opened
Bunscoil an tSleibhe Dhuibh, Belfast	BELB	Nursery Unit	2010
Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain	BELB	Nursery School	2012
Scoil an Droichid, Belfast	BELB	Nursery Unit	2008
Gaelscoil Ui Dhocartaigh	WELB	Nursery Unit	2010
Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir, Londonderry	WELB	Nursery Unit	2009
Gaelscoil na gCrann, Omagh	WELB	Nursery Unit	2010
Gaelscoil an Chaistil, Ballycastle	NEELB	Nursery Unit	2011
Gaelscoil an tSeanchai	NEELB	Nursery Unit	2013

School	ELB Area	School Type	Year Opened
Ballymoney Nursery School	NEELB	Nursery School	2011
Tonagh Primary School	SEELB	Nursery Unit	2012
Ballynahinch Primary School	SEELB	Nursery Unit	2008
Dundonald Primary School	SEELB	Nursery Unit	2011
Moira Primary School	SEELB	Nursery Unit	2009
Ballymagee Primary School, Bangor	SEELB	Nursery Unit	2014
Millennium Integrated Primary School	SEELB	Nursery Unit	2014
Millennium Integrated Primary School, Saintfield	SEELB	Nursery Unit	2009
King's Park Primary School, Craigavon	SELB	Nursery Unit	2010
Waringstown Primary School, Craigavon	SELB	Nursery Unit	2013
Maralin Primary School, Magheralin, Craigavon	SELB	Nursery Unit	2008
Howard Primary School, Dungannon	SELB	Nursery Unit	2014
Bocombra Primary School	SELB	Nursery Unit	2013
Fair Hill Primary School, Dromara	SELB	Nursery Unit	2010
Bronte Primary School	SELB	Nursery Unit	2013
Drumadonnell Primary School, Ballyroney	SELB	Nursery Unit	2013
Orchard County Primary School, Portadown	SELB	Nursery Unit	2012
Christian Brothers' Primary School, Armagh	SELB	Nursery Unit	2009
St Anthony's Primary School, Craigavon	SELB	Nursery Unit	2011
St Patrick's Primary School, Mayobridge	SELB	Nursery Unit	2013

School	ELB Area	School Type	Year Opened
St Colman's Primary School, Annaclone, Banbridge	SELB	Nursery Unit	2011
St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon	SELB	Nursery Unit	2014
St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon	SELB	Nursery Unit	2010
Holy Trinity Primary School, Cookstown	SELB	Nursery Unit	2014
St Francis' Primary School, Lurgan	SELB	Nursery Unit	2011
Seagoe Primary School, Portadown	SELB	Nursery Unit	2013
Gaelscoil Ui Neill	SELB	Nursery Unit	2010
Gaelscoil Eoghain	SELB	Nursery Unit	2014
Portadown Integrated Primary School	SELB	Nursery Unit	2013
Millington Nursery School, Portadown	SELB	Nursery School	2010
Drumnamoe Nursery School, Lurgan	SELB	Nursery School	2011
The following settings are scheduled to open in September 2015			
School	ELB Area	School Type	Year Opened
Bush Primary School	SELB	Nursery Unit	2015
St Malachy's Primary School, Kilcoo	SEELB	Nursery Unit	2015
Phoenix Integrated Primary School, Cookstown	SELB	Nursery Unit	2015

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New Education Authority

Mr Trevor Lunn (APNI – Lagan Valley) – To ask the Minister of Education how he envisages the new education authority making positive steps or removing obstacles to integrated education

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): I am committed to ensuring that my Department continues to have a rigorous approach to its statutory duty to encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education.

The new Education Authority will be accountable to, and operate within the strategic framework set by, the Department. This will include assisting the Department in discharging its statutory duty to integrated education. In addition, the Department will hold the Authority to account through the Management Statement/Financial Memorandum (MSFM), as it does with the existing five Education and Library Boards. **(11th November)**

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Integrated Education Guidance

Mr Trevor Lunn (APNI – Lagan Valley) – To ask the Minister of Education for an update on the revised written departmental guidance to encourage and facilitate integrated education after the Drumragh Judgement.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): As I explained in my answer to AQW 33963/11-15, the court judgement provided clarity as to whom the Article 64 (1) duty of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 is owed. I have already instructed my officials to ensure that the application of the duty placed on the Department to encourage and facilitate integrated education takes account of that clarity.

Additional guidance has now been provided to all senior staff within the Department via internal workshops that have presented an opportunity to make clear my expectations that the statutory duties to encourage and facilitate both integrated and Irish-medium education are discharged fully, positively and proactively and to explain the implications of both statutory duties, including in the context of the Drumragh Judgement. The use of the workshop approach has proved a very effective means of communication and this approach will be rolled out to other relevant staff in the months ahead.

At the same time, I have been considering what additional guidance is needed for the executive non-departmental bodies which are accountable to my Department and which must play their part in supporting us in discharging these important duties. I expect to see much greater prominence given by our non-departmental public bodies to supporting the Department in encouraging and facilitating both integrated and Irish-medium education and I shall be signaling this to the appropriate bodies, including the new Education Authority, as we move forward into a new business planning period. **(11th November)**

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Integrated Schools

Mr Danny Kinahan (UUP – South Antrim) – To ask the Minister of Education how many integrated schools have sought to expand their numbers since the Drumragh Judgement.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): Since the Drumragh Judgement two integrated schools – Rowandale Integrated Primary School and Ulidia Integrated College, have sought to expand their numbers.

A record of all current development proposals and decisions made is available on my Departments website at: http://www.deni.gov.uk/14-schools_estate_devprop_pg.htm
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Integrated Schools

Mr Danny Kinahan (UUP – South Antrim) – To ask the Minister of Education how many integrated schools have sought to expand their numbers in the last five years.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): Based on published development proposals, nine integrated schools have sought to increase their enrolment in the last five years. Their details are listed in the table below;

Name of School	Position	Increased enrolment
Ulidia Integrated College	DP published 6 November 2014	From 500 to 660 pupils (proposed)
Rowandale Integrated PS	Decision pending	From 174 to 399 pupils (proposed)
Millennium Integrated PS	DP approved	From 203 to 392 pupils
Shimna Integrated College	DP approved	From 480 to 620 pupils
Portadown Integrated PS	DP not approved	None
Priory Integrated College	DP approved with modification	From 450 to 500 pupils
Enniskillen Integrated Primary School	DP approved	From 244 to 392 pupils
New-Bridge Integrated College	DP approved	From 500 to 620 pupils
Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh	DP not approved	Decision currently being retaken

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Area Planning Steering Group

Miss Michelle McIlveen (DUP – Strangford) – To ask the Minister of Education what changes he envisages to the membership of the Area Planning Steering Group in the light of the proposal to reorganise education administration.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): The membership of the Area Planning Steering Group currently reflects the present education structures and responsibilities. It will, however, be kept under review and future arrangements will reflect the new structures including the Education Authority when it becomes established. **(14th November)**

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Area Planning Steering Group Membership

Miss Michelle McIlveen (DUP – Strangford) – To ask the Minister of Education to detail the current membership of the Area Planning Steering Group.

Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education): The Area Planning Steering Group (APSG) is chaired by a senior official from the Department and of Education and comprises representatives the Chief Executives of the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs), the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS), the NI Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) and Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG). A senior official from the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) attends as an observer to provide advice on FE issues and policies.

The table below sets out the current membership of the Group:

Name	Organisation
Dr Clare Mangan	Belfast ELB
Shane McCurdy	North Eastern ELB
Gregory Butler	South Eastern ELB
Gavin Boyd	Southern ELB
Barry Mulholland	Western ELB
Jim Clarke	CCMS
Noreen Campbell	NICIE
Dr Micheál O’Duibh	CnaG
Dr Mary Ivor	DEL

Given the number of Catholic Maintained schools and the regional nature of the work to be covered by CCMS, it should be noted that Gerry Lundy (CCMS) also attends the meetings to support the CCMS CEO. **(14th November)**

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Department of Environment

Urban Regeneration and Community Planning

Mr Steward Dickson (APNI – East Antrim) – To ask the Minister of the Environment to outline the urban regeneration and community planning functions that are yet to be scheduled for transfer to the new councils.

Mr M Durkan (The Minister of Environment): The Member's question concerns two elements of the reform of local government.

The first is the provision to councils of urban regeneration powers currently exercised by the Department for Social Development and which requires primary legislation to be brought forward by DSD. As this is firmly the remit of the Minister for Social Development, I do not intend outlining this function in any great detail, other than to state that I have raised my concern in recent meetings with Ministerial colleagues, including Minister Storey, at the continued delay in reaching Executive agreement for the introduction of the DSD Bill to provide councils with regeneration powers to the Assembly.

Whilst a failure to provide councils with urban regeneration and community development powers will not prevent the rest of the reform programme from going ahead, it is, nonetheless, a very important element of the reform process. I believe that the re-coupling of regeneration with the planning functions transferring from my department will provide councils with the ability to shape their communities.

The second function raised by this question, relates to community planning. Councils will have duties and powers of community planning, but these are not transferring to councils – they are entirely new and have been provided by the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Community planning involves integrating the various streams of public life, such as the services and functions that are delivered in an area, and producing a plan that will set out the future direction of a council area. Councils will lead this process. However, they will not be able to achieve this on their own. A duty has been placed on all Government Departments to promote, encourage and have regard for community planning. Councils will also work with statutory bodies, agencies and the wider community, including the voluntary, community and business sectors, to develop and implement a shared vision for promoting the well-being of an area and improving the quality of life of its citizens.

I recently launched a consultation on those bodies to be named in subordinate legislation as statutory community planning partners, and I would encourage anyone with an interest in community planning to respond to that consultation.

Local government has been preparing for the new community planning powers for some time, and capacity building work is ongoing with both central and local government to ensure that all key partners are able to fulfil their community planning responsibilities from April 2015. **(Oral Question - Answered)**

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Department of Health

Delivering Social Change

Ms Maeve McLaughlin (Sinn Féin – Foyle) – To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how the transfer of £0.2m under Delivering Social Change for family support hubs will be allocated.

Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The £0.2m funding will be used to meet the projected cost of the Delivering Social Change Family Support Hub Signature Project in year. This is not additional investment; the funding has already been committed. The funding will be allocated to the HSCB in the normal manner by way of an allocation letter. **(10th November)**

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Pulse Oximetry for all Newborns

Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson (UUP – Upper Bann) – To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has concerns regarding the roll out of pulse oximetry for all newborns in relation to;

- i) the costs involved and
- ii) the accuracy of the saturation probe monitor test.

Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety): In 2013, the UK National Screening Committee (NSC) issued, for consultation, a review of the evidence on adding pulse oximetry to the screening pathway to detect congenital heart disease in newborns. The consultation closed in December 2013 and was discussed by the NSC at their meeting in March 2014.

The NSC review of the evidence raised some important questions that require further consideration and therefore recommended piloting the pulse oximetry test to screen newborn babies for congenital heart defects.

The NSC will use the findings from the pilot to help define the optimal test procedures for pulse oximetry and better understand the implications of its introduction for neonatal services. Following the evaluation of this pilot the NSC will make a policy recommendation for the UK and I will await this recommendation before making a policy decision on this for Northern Ireland. **(10th November)** [Back to Top](#)

Female Genital Mutilation Action Plan

Mrs Sandra Overend (UUP – Mid Ulster) – To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps are being taken by his Department to provide input on, and to co-ordinate, a cross departmental action plan to tackle Female Genital Mutilation.

Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety): Female Genital Mutilation is an important issue which cuts across a number of Departments. That is why, alongside others, my Department has been involved from the early stages in assisting in developing Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines on Female Genital Mutilation which were published in July by the Department of Finance and Personnel.

I understand that a cross departmental meeting is being arranged to discuss and agree how best to raise the profile of these guidelines and take forward actions required to address the issue of FGM here, and my officials stand ready to participate in that event. The joint DHSSPS and DOJ strategy *Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland* is currently being developed. It recognises that domestic violence and abuse can manifest itself through the perpetration of unlawful activities and practices such as female genital mutilation. **(11th November)**

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IV Infusion Services

Mr Chris Hazzard (Sinn Féin – South Down) – To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail;

- i) what changes have recently been agreed to IV Infusion services for children with Osteogenesis; and
- ii) how affected patients have been informed of these changes

Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety): Over the next year there is a planned change in the provision of this service from Orthopaedics to a joint service with the Endocrine or the Rheumatology Service. The service will remain within the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children and should not have any impact on patient welfare or services. **(13th November)**

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Dalriada Hospital

Mr Daithi McKay (Sinn Féin – North Antrim) – To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the effect the closure of the 32 beds at Dalriada Hospital will have on other services currently based at the site.

Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The following services will remain operational at Dalriada Hospital:

- Treatment Room Nursing;
- Ballycastle Intermediate Team (District Nursing / Social Workers / Occupational Therapy);
- Domiciliary care services;
- Outpatient clinics;
- Dental;
- Community children’s Speech and language therapy;
- Midwifery;
- Podiatry;
- Dietetics;
- Physiotherapy;
- Mental health team;
- Health visiting services;
- Orthoptics;
- Community and voluntary services;
- GP Health Centre.

These services will not be affected by the bed closures. For staff delivering these services, their work will continue as normal. **(14th November)**

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Department of Justice

Prison Costs

Mr John Dallat (SDLP – East Londonderry) – To ask the Minister of Justice to detail the total annual cost of providing;

- i) food; and
- ii) education in each prison; and the average cost per inmate.

Mr Ford (Minister for Justice): The tables below sets out the total annual cost and the average cost per inmate requested in parts (i) and (ii) above for the financial year 2013-14

Prison	(i) Food costs 2013-14		(ii) Education costs 2013-14	
	Annual Cost	Average Cost per inmate	Annual Cost	Average Cost per inmate
Maghaberry	£1,152,957	£1,085	£1,552,025	£1,460
Magilligan	£626,215	£1,143	£1,208,357	£2,205
Hydebank Wood				

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Adoption

Mr Basil McCrea (NI21 – Lagan Valley) – To ask the Minister of Justice what steps his Department has taken to facilitate better understanding between the judiciary and social services in adoption cases, in order to prevent adopted children being reallocated between parents and potential adopters.

Mr Ford (Minister for Justice): The legal framework governing the determination of public law cases by courts is the responsibility of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. In accordance with the principle of judicial independence, the application of that legislation to individual cases is a matter for the judiciary, as is judicial training. However, sharing knowledge and experience can only improve the operation of the system and outcomes for vulnerable children and families. (14th November)

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