

NICCY

northern ireland commissioner
for children and young people



Dear Colleague

A request for help...

On becoming Commissioner for Children and Young People last October, I felt it was really important to have a strong research and evidence base for my work. In particular, I wanted to review the key issues where children and young people's rights (as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) were ignored, under threat, or undervalued in Northern Ireland compared with elsewhere.

A steering group primarily made up of voluntary agencies and young people has helped me shape the research. After a thorough tendering process, overseen by the steering group, a multidisciplinary research team from Queen's University Belfast won the contract to undertake the research. More details are attached.

I am very keen that this research should be grounded in and learn from previous work in this area, and also capture the views of both children and young people and all those working with them. I hope therefore that you will be able to help by responding to the questions set out in the attached note, directly to the e-mail address given.

I will be publishing the research report later in the year, and this will kick off a process of discussion on the priorities I should adopt as Commissioner. I want all of us to learn from the outcome of this research.

Thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light purple background. The signature appears to read 'Nigel Williams'.

NIGEL WILLIAMS
Commissioner for Children and Young People