

FROM THE MINISTER



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AQW 32846/11-15

Mr Weir has asked:

To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning for (i) his assessment of; and (ii) statistics relating to the academic underachievement amongst Protestant working class communities in North Down.

ANSWER

Population data from the Census indicate that Protestants and Catholics (aged over 16) in deprived areas in the North Down assembly area are less likely to have level 2 qualifications and above than those in affluent areas.

Deprivation has been measured on the official multiple measure which categorises areas into 'quintiles'. In deprived areas (quintiles 1 and 2), Protestants are less likely to have this level of qualification than Catholics – 52% of Protestants compared to 59% of Catholics in respect of quintile 1, and 53% of Protestants compared to 65% of Catholics in respect of quintile 2 (Annex A, Tables 1 and 2).



Further Education (FE) statistical analysis

In North Down, the total number of further education enrolments for Protestants is much higher in a given year than for Catholics. In 2011/12 there were 2,203 Protestant enrolments compared to 291 Catholic. For 2012/13 there were 3,288 Protestant enrolments and 432 Catholic (Table 4).

During 2011/12, the proportion of Protestants enrolling in further education from deprived areas is higher at 18% of all Protestant enrolments, compared to 14% of all Catholic enrolments, although the number of Catholics is much lower. During 2012/13, however, the rates are similar to each other - 19% of Protestants and 19% of Catholics (Table 3).

In terms of attainment, 18% of all Protestants gaining qualifications in further education come from deprived areas – a similar proportion to those enrolling (Table 3).

Higher Education statistical analysis

The total number of enrolments for Protestants is higher in a given year than for Catholics. In 2011/12 there were 1,040 Protestant enrolments compared to 236 Catholic enrolments. Figures are similar for 2012/13 (Table 6).

The proportion of Protestants enrolling in higher education from deprived areas is slightly higher at 9% of all Protestant enrolments, compared to 7-8% of all Catholic enrolments (albeit the number of Catholics is lower) (Table 5).

There is no evidence of underachievement by working class Protestants given that 9% of all Protestants gaining qualifications in higher education come from deprived areas – a similar proportion to those enrolling (8-10%) (Table 5).

Training for Success (TfS)

The total number of Protestants and Catholics in North Down participating in TfS is very different (5 and 54 respectively at the end of October 2012, and 7 and 95 respectively at the end of October 2013) (Table 7)

The proportion of Catholics participating from deprived areas is higher at 40% of all Catholics participating, compared to 33% of all Protestants participating (at the end of October 2012)

Proportions at the end of October 2013 are 43% and 27% respectively.

The percentages quoted should be interpreted with caution due to the small numbers involved.

Role of FE

As the main providers of adult education in Northern Ireland, further education colleges encourage access to course provision by delivering a wide and varied curriculum through their main campuses and network of community outreach centres. South Eastern Regional College offers a range of full-time and part-time courses, from Entry level to level 5, which are open to people of all abilities across the North Down constituency. FE colleges continue to have a strong record of

engaging participants from the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. During the 2012/13 academic year, colleges across Northern Ireland had over 67,483 accredited enrolments from the 40% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland. This represented 44% of all such enrolments.

In addition, my Department has developed and implemented the Learner Access and Engagement Programme (LAE). This programme, which has been mainstreamed with effect from September 2013, allows FE colleges to contract with third party organisations for the provision of learner support. This support is directed at ‘hard to reach’ learners who are economically inactive, disengaged from the labour market and hold few or no qualifications, to encourage them to enrol on, and to complete, FE courses.

Higher Education.

Access to Success, is my Department’s regional strategy to widen participation in higher education among those groups which are currently under-represented. The strategy recognises an under-representation among young males from areas of high deprivation, which is particularly acute among young Protestant males.

The strategy has a strong focus on the creation of a more accessible sector in which the people who are most able but least likely to participate are given every encouragement and support to apply to, and to benefit from, higher education. The strategy sets out a programme which includes:

- a co-ordinated higher education awareness and aspiration raising campaign which was launched in March 2014 to better communicate the benefits of higher education to under-represented sections of the community;
- an expansion in the range of aspiration and educational attainment raising programmes at school, college, community and the workplace;
- the development of agreed regional programmes for a standardised route of exceptional application to higher education for the most disadvantaged applicants; and
- the development of additional support measures by higher education providers for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to sustain their participation.

I have attached the statistical information requested and referred to at Annex A. Tables 1 and 2 show educational attainment (level 2 and above) by deprivation quintile for the North Down Parliamentary Constituency for those aged 16 and over. Tables 3, 4, 5 and 6 detail enrolments/qualifications (at level 2 and above) in HE and FE respectively from North Down students, again by deprivation quintile for the 11/12 and 12/13 academic years.



DR STEPHEN FARRY MLA
Minister for Employment and Learning

Table 1: North Down Assembly Area usual residents aged 16 and over by highest level of qualification, religion or religion brought up in and multiple deprivation measure(MDM) quintile

MDM Quintile	Qualification	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	Catholic	Other religions and no religion	Total
MDM Quintile 1 (most deprived)	Level 2 and above	467	57	120	644
	All	897	97	212	1,206
MDM Quintile 2	Level 2 and above	3,819	779	618	5,216
	All	7,223	1,191	997	9,411
MDM Quintile 3	Level 2 and above	2,397	300	319	3,016
	All	4,066	435	521	5,022
MDM Quintile 4	Level 2 and above	7,636	1,622	1,367	10,625
	All	11,917	2,279	1,946	16,142
MDM Quintile 5 (least deprived)	Level 2 and above	23,248	3,980	2,603	29,831
	All	32,499	5,203	3,555	41,257
Total	Level 2 and above	37,567	6,738	5,027	49,332
	All	56,602	9,205	7,231	73,038

Source: Census 2011 (DC2509N1)

Notes:

MDM Quintile 1 is made up of MDM ward ranks 1 to 116

MDM Quintile 2 is made up of MDM ward ranks 117 to 232

MDM Quintile 3 is made up of MDM ward ranks 233 to 349

MDM Quintile 4 is made up of MDM ward ranks 350 to 465

Level 2 and above includes 'Level 2 qualifications', 'Apprenticeship', 'Level 3 qualifications', 'Level 4 qualifications and above' and 'Other qualifications'

Only usual residents aged 16 and over are included in this analysis

Table 2: North Down Assembly Area usual residents aged 16 and over by highest level of qualification, religion or religion brought up in and multiple deprivation measure(MDM) quintile (percentages)

MDM Quintile	Qualification	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	Catholic	Other religions and no religion	Total
MDM Quintile 1 (most deprived)	Level 2 and above	52%	59%	57%	53%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%
MDM Quintile 2	Level 2 and above	53%	65%	62%	55%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%
MDM Quintile 3	Level 2 and above	59%	69%	61%	60%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%
MDM Quintile 4	Level 2 and above	64%	71%	70%	66%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%
MDM Quintile 5 (least deprived)	Level 2 and above	72%	76%	73%	72%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total	Level 2 and above	66%	73%	70%	68%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%

Only usual residents aged 16 and over are included in this analysis

Source: Census 2011 (DC2509NI)

Notes:

- MDM Quintile 1 is made up of MDM ward ranks 1 to 116
- MDM Quintile 2 is made up of MDM ward ranks 117 to 232
- MDM Quintile 3 is made up of MDM ward ranks 233 to 349
- MDM Quintile 4 is made up of MDM ward ranks 350 to 465
- MDM Quintile 5 is made up of MDM ward ranks 466 to 582
- Level 2 and above includes 'Level 2 qualifications', 'Apprenticeship', 'Level 3 qualifications', 'Level 4 qualifications and above' and 'Other qualifications'

Table 3: Accredited % FE Enrolments and Achievements in North Down Parliamentary Constituency (Level 2 and above) by Deprivation Quintile and Community Background, (2011/12 - 2012/13)

Deprivation	Enrolments in 2011/12			Achievements in 2011/12		
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known
Group 1 & 2	18.2%	14.1%	19.4%	17.6%	13.9%	18.1%
Group 3	18.1%	11.0%	14.8%	16.8%	8.5%	15.0%
Group 4	23.0%	28.2%	21.9%	23.3%	26.7%	21.3%
Group 5 Least Deprived	40.7%	46.7%	43.9%	42.3%	50.9%	45.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Deprivation	Enrolments in 2012/13			Achievements in 2012/13		
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known
Group 1 & 2	18.9%	19.2%	20.3%	18.1%	16.4%	20.7%
Group 3	19.8%	8.3%	13.6%	19.3%	9.1%	12.2%
Group 4	23.4%	34.0%	24.8%	23.3%	35.0%	24.7%
Group 5 Least Deprived	38.0%	38.4%	41.4%	39.3%	39.5%	42.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: FESR

Accredited enrolments are defined by ~ ANY(qualaim,199,599,999) & ~ ANY(smoa,8).

Achievements are full and partial achievements to keep in line with published data. (Withdrawals and Transfers excluded from analysis)
Protestant includes Other Christian.

NIMDM is the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure

Level of study 2 and above is defined broadly as NQF/QCF equivalents

Table 4: Accredited FE Enrolments and Achievements in North Down Parliamentary Constituency (Level 2 and above) by Deprivation Quintile and Community Background, (2011/12 - 2012/13)

Deprivation	Enrolments in 2011/12			Achievements in 2011/12			
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Total
Group 1 & 2	402	41	482	220	23	292	535
Group 3	398	32	368	210	14	243	467
Group 4	506	82	546	291	44	345	680
Group 5 Least Deprived	897	136	1,092	528	84	736	1,348
Total	2,203	291	2,488	1,249	165	1,616	3,030

Deprivation	Enrolments in 2012/13			Achievements in 2012/13			
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Total
Group 1 & 2	620	83	528	387	47	352	786
Group 3	650	36	353	411	26	208	645
Group 4	770	147	645	497	100	420	1,017
Group 5 Least Deprived	1,248	166	1,077	838	113	720	1,671
Total	3,288	432	2,603	2,133	286	1,700	4,119

Source: FESR

Accredited enrolments are defined by ~ANY(qualaim,199,599,999) & ~ANY(smoa,8).

Achievements are full and partial achievements to keep in line with published data. (Withdrawals and Transfers excluded from analysis)

Protestant includes Other Christian

NIMDM is the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure

Level of study 2 and above is defined broadly as NQF/QCF equivalents

Table 5: Northern Ireland Domiciled % Enrolments and Qualifications gained from North Down at UK HEIs broken down by MDM Quintiles and Religion in 2011/12

MDM Quintiles	Enrolments in 2011/12			Qualifications gained in 2011/12		
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not known	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not known
Group 1 & Group 2 Most Deprived	9.3%	8.1%	6.8%	7.5%	8.6%	7.0%
Group 3	11.8%	5.9%	8.9%	14.5%	5.7%	10.2%
Group 4	21.0%	21.6%	20.4%	22.3%	20.0%	18.9%
Group 5 Least Deprived	57.9%	64.4%	63.9%	55.7%	65.7%	63.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Northern Ireland Domiciled % Enrolments and Qualifications gained from North Down at UK HEIs broken down by MDM Quintiles and Religion in 2012/13

MDM Quintiles	Enrolments in 2012/13			Qualifications gained in 2012/13		
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not known	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not known
Group 1 & Group 2 Most Deprived	9.4%	6.6%	7.2%	10.1%	6.4%	7.3%
Group 3	12.7%	7.0%	7.9%	10.4%	6.4%	9.4%
Group 4	20.7%	24.1%	20.3%	19.9%	20.5%	20.6%
Group 5 Least Deprived	57.2%	62.3%	64.6%	59.7%	66.7%	62.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source:HESA

Note: MDM quintile groups 1 and 2 have been combined to avoid disclosure risks, as some cells had only 1 case

Table 6: Northern Ireland Domiciled Enrolments and Qualifications gained from North Down at UK HEIs broken down by MDM Quintiles and Religion in 2011/12

MDM Quintiles	Enrolments in 2011/12			Qualifications gained in 2011/12			
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not known	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not known	Total
Group 1 & Group 2 Most Deprived	97	19	143	24	6	37	67
Group 3	123	14	186	46	4	54	104
Group 4	218	51	426	71	14	100	185
Group 5 Least Deprived	602	152	1,336	177	46	337	560
Total	1,040	236	2,091	318	70	528	916

Northern Ireland Domiciled Enrolments and Qualifications gained from North Down at UK HEIs broken down by MDM Quintiles and Religion in 2012/13

MDM Quintiles	Enrolments in 2012/13			Qualifications gained in 2012/13			
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not known	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not known	Total
Group 1 & Group 2 Most Deprived	91	15	149	36	5	38	79
Group 3	122	16	165	37	5	49	91
Group 4	200	55	423	71	16	107	194
Group 5 Least Deprived	551	142	1,346	213	52	326	591
Total	964	228	2,083	357	78	520	955

Source: HESA

Note: MDM quintile groups 1 and 2 have been combined to avoid disclosure risks, as some cells had only 1 case

Table 7: Occupancy on Training for Success for North Down Parliamentary Constituency

% Occupancy on TFS for North Down Parliamentary Constituency, October 2012 and October 2013, by MDM Quintile (1) and Religion

TFS	MDM Quintile	Oct-12				Oct-13			
		Catholic	Protestant	Other/Not Known	Total	Catholic	Protestant	Other/Not Known	Total
	Group 1 Most Deprived	40%	4%	13%	9%	29%	2%	0%	3%
	Group 2	0%	30%	22%	25%	14%	25%	29%	26%
	Group 3	20%	30%	13%	23%	0%	24%	19%	22%
	Group 4	0%	17%	28%	20%	29%	22%	24%	23%
	Group 5 Least Deprived	40%	20%	25%	23%	29%	26%	29%	27%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Occupancy on TFS for North Down Parliamentary Constituency, October 2012 and October 2013, by MDM Quintile (1) and Religion

TFS	MDM Quintile	Oct-12				Oct-13			
		Catholic	Protestant	Other/Not Known	Total	Catholic	Protestant	Other/Not Known	Total
	Group 1 Most Deprived	2	2	4	8	2	2	0	4
	Group 2	0	16	7	23	1	24	12	37
	Group 3	1	16	4	21	0	23	8	31
	Group 4	0	9	9	18	2	21	10	33
	Group 5 Least Deprived	2	11	8	21	2	25	12	39
	Total	5	54	32	91	7	95	42	144

Source: Data extracted from the Department's Client Management System on 31st January 2014

(1) Does not include those participants for whom postcode is not known or not recorded