

FROM THE MINISTER



**Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson, MLA  
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**17 April 2014**

**AQW 32697/11-15**

**Mrs Dobson has asked:**

To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of, and to provide available statistics on, the academic underachievement amongst Protestant working class communities in Upper Bann.

**ANSWER**

Population data from the Census indicate that Protestants and Catholics (aged over 16) in deprived areas in the Upper Bann 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 – 45% of Protestants compared to 51% of Catholics (although they are much fewer in number) (Annex 1, Tables 1 and 2).



### **Further Education**

While the total number of enrolments for Protestants and Catholics in Upper Bann is very similar (at between 3,000 and 4,000 each year for level 2 and above (Table 4), the proportion of Protestants enrolling in further education from deprived areas is lower at 27% of all Protestant enrolments, compared to 61% of all Catholic enrolments (Table 3, 2012/13 academic year).

In terms of attainment, 27% of all Protestants gaining qualifications in further education come from deprived areas – a similar proportion to those enrolling (Table 3).

As the main providers of adult education in Northern Ireland, further education (FE) colleges encourage access to course provision by delivering a wide and varied curriculum through their main campuses and network of community outreach centres. Southern 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 Upper Bann constituency. Further education (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**

While the total number of enrolments for Protestants and Catholics in Upper Bann is very similar (at between 1,000 and 1,200 each year) (Table 6), the proportion of Protestants enrolling in higher education from deprived areas is lower at 11% of all Protestant enrolments, compared to 38% of all Catholic enrolments (Table 5).

In terms of attainment, approximately 11% of all Protestants gaining qualifications in higher education come from deprived areas – a similar proportion to those enrolling (Table 5).

*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;
- the development of additional support measures by higher education providers for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to sustain their participation.

### **Training for Success (TfS)**

While the total number of Protestants and Catholics in Upper Bann participating in TfS is very similar (70 and 86 respectively at the end of October 2012 and 112 and 120 respectively at the end of October 2013) (Table 8), the proportion of Protestants participating from deprived areas is lower at 37% of all Protestants participating, compared to 71% of all Catholics participating (at the end of October 2012) (Table 7).

Proportions at the end of October 2013 are slightly lower, at 34% and 67% respectively.

I attach an Excel file containing 4 worksheets. The 1st tab looks at educational attainment (level 2 and above) by deprivation quintile for the Upper Bann Parliamentary Constituency for those aged 16 and over. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tabs detail enrolments/qualifications (at level 2 and above) in HE and FE respectively from Upper Bann students, again by deprivation quintile for the 11/12 and 12/13

academic years. The 4<sup>th</sup> tab details the number of participants, from Upper Bann, on Training for Success as at the end of October 2012 and 2013, again by deprivation quintile.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Farry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

**DR STEPHEN FARRY MLA**  
**Minister for Employment and Learning**

**Table 1: Upper Bann 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	2,995	6,814	632	10,441
	All	7,065	13,740	1,141	21,946
MDM Quintile 2	Level 2 and above	1,926	3,797	218	5,941
	All	3,760	7,099	374	11,233
MDM Quintile 3	Level 2 and above	4,654	2,986	472	8,112
	All	8,343	4,943	758	14,044
MDM Quintile 4	Level 2 and above	7,856	6,699	747	15,302
	All	13,068	10,486	1,140	24,694
MDM Quintile 5 (least deprived)	Level 2 and above	10,412	2,333	729	13,474
	All	15,604	3,421	1,107	20,132
Total	Level 2 and above	27,843	22,629	2,798	53,270
	All	47,840	39,689	4,520	92,049

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'

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

**Table 2: Upper Bann 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	42%	50%	55%	48%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%
MDM Quintile 2	Level 2 and above	51%	53%	58%	53%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%
MDM Quintile 3	Level 2 and above	56%	60%	62%	58%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%
MDM Quintile 4	Level 2 and above	60%	64%	66%	62%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%
MDM Quintile 5 (least deprived)	Level 2 and above	67%	68%	66%	67%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total	Level 2 and above	58%	57%	62%	58%
	All	100%	100%	100%	100%

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'

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

**Table 3: Accredited % FE Enrolments and Achievements in Upper Bann 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		Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not	
			Known	Total			Known	Total
Group 1 Most Deprived	12.2%	39.7%	25.8%	26.5%	12.0%	39.7%	25.0%	26.0%
Group 2	14.5%	21.1%	17.1%	17.7%	15.1%	20.2%	17.4%	17.7%
Group 3	23.8%	15.0%	21.2%	19.8%	24.7%	15.2%	21.6%	20.3%
Group 4	28.7%	16.1%	22.0%	22.0%	27.4%	16.1%	21.3%	21.4%
Group 5 Least Deprived	20.8%	8.2%	13.9%	14.0%	20.8%	8.8%	14.7%	14.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	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		Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not	
			Known	Total			Known	Total
Group 1 Most Deprived	12.3%	41.0%	26.0%	26.8%	11.7%	42.1%	26.5%	26.9%
Group 2	13.8%	19.9%	15.8%	16.6%	14.6%	19.1%	16.2%	16.7%
Group 3	24.1%	12.8%	21.2%	19.2%	24.4%	13.0%	21.3%	19.5%
Group 4	27.5%	18.5%	24.7%	23.4%	26.9%	18.5%	23.8%	23.0%
Group 5 Least Deprived	22.3%	7.9%	12.4%	14.1%	22.5%	7.3%	12.2%	13.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	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 Upper Bann 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		Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not	
			Known	Total			Known	Total
Group 1 Most Deprived	396	1,469	923	2,788	239	873	541	1,653
Group 2	472	780	612	1,864	300	445	377	1,122
Group 3	775	555	760	2,090	490	335	468	1,293
Group 4	935	595	789	2,319	545	354	462	1,361
Group 5 Least Deprived	676	303	498	1,477	413	194	318	925
Total	3,254	3,702	3,582	10,538	1,987	2,201	2,166	6,354

Deprivation	Enrolments in 2012/13				Achievements in 2012/13			
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not		Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not	
			Known	Total			Known	Total
Group 1 Most Deprived	431	1,536	859	2,826	276	1,026	628	1,930
Group 2	483	746	521	1,750	344	466	385	1,195
Group 3	845	478	700	2,023	577	317	504	1,398
Group 4	965	691	814	2,470	636	450	565	1,651
Group 5 Least Deprived	784	294	408	1,486	531	178	289	998
Total	3,508	3,745	3,302	10,555	2,364	2,437	2,371	7,172

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 Upper Bann at UK HEIs broken down by MDM Quintiles and Religion in 2011/12**

MDM Quintiles	Enrolments in 2011/12			Qualifications in 2011/12		
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known
Group 1 Most Deprived	5.2%	25.0%	13.1%	5.6%	21.7%	12.2%
Group 2	6.2%	13.4%	10.6%	5.6%	13.0%	11.0%
Group 3	23.3%	18.5%	22.7%	22.5%	21.7%	22.0%
Group 4	33.3%	27.6%	29.9%	35.2%	29.0%	30.5%
Group 5 Least Deprived	32.4%	15.9%	23.7%	32.4%	14.5%	24.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

MDM Quintiles	Enrolments in 2012/13			Qualifications in 2012/13		
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known
Group 1 Most Deprived	5.1%	25.5%	13.6%	4.5%	26.8%	15.0%
Group 2	6.1%	13.0%	10.4%	4.5%	14.1%	10.0%
Group 3	22.4%	18.4%	22.7%	22.4%	15.5%	21.3%
Group 4	34.7%	26.4%	29.1%	31.3%	26.8%	31.3%
Group 5 Least Deprived	32.1%	16.7%	23.6%	35.8%	18.3%	22.5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source:HESA

Note: Data are rounded to nearest 5.

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

MDM Quintiles	Enrolments in 2011/12				Qualifications in 2011/12			
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Total	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Total
Group 1 Most Deprived	55	290	210	555	20	75	50	145
Group 2	65	155	170	390	20	45	45	105
Group 3	245	215	365	830	80	75	90	245
Group 4	350	320	480	1145	125	100	125	350
Group 5 Least Deprived	340	185	380	900	115	50	100	265
Total	1050	1160	1605	3820	355	345	410	1110

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

MDM Quintiles	Enrolments in 2012/13				Qualifications in 2012/13			
	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Total	Protestant	Catholic	Other/Not Known	Total
Group 1 Most Deprived	50	305	210	565	15	95	60	175
Group 2	60	155	160	375	15	50	40	105
Group 3	220	220	350	785	75	55	85	215
Group 4	340	315	450	1105	105	95	125	325
Group 5 Least Deprived	315	200	365	880	120	65	90	270
Total	980	1195	1545	3715	335	355	400	1090

Source:HESA

Note: Data are rounded to nearest 5.



**Table 7: % Occupancy on TfS for Upper Bann Parliamentary Constituency, October 2012 and October 2013, by MDM Quintile <sup>(1)</sup> and Religion**

MDM Quintile	Oct-12				Oct-13			
	Catholic	Protestant	Other/Not Known	Total	Catholic	Protestant	Other/Not Known	Total
Group 1 Most Deprived	51%	20%	19%	34%	43%	15%	16%	27%
Group 2	20%	17%	25%	20%	23%	19%	33%	23%
Group 3	12%	21%	14%	16%	10%	22%	4%	14%
Group 4	15%	27%	22%	21%	19%	24%	29%	23%
Group 5 Least Deprived	2%	14%	19%	10%	4%	20%	18%	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 8: Occupancy on TfS for Upper Bann Parliamentary Constituency, October 2012 and October 2013, by MDM Quintile <sup>(1)</sup> and Religion**

MDM Quintile	Oct-12				Oct-13			
	Catholic	Protestant	Other/Not Known	Total	Catholic	Protestant	Other/Not Known	Total
Group 1 Most Deprived	44	14	7	65	52	17	8	77
Group 2	17	12	9	38	28	21	16	65
Group 3	10	15	5	30	12	25	2	39
Group 4	13	19	8	40	23	27	14	64
Group 5 Least Deprived	2	10	7	19	5	22	9	36
Total	86	70	36	192	120	112	49	281

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

<sup>(1)</sup> Does not include those participants for whom postcode is not known or not recorded