

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**Peter Weir, Minister**  
Rathgael House, Balloo Road  
Bangor, BT19 7PR

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**Roy Beggs MLA**  
**Parliament Buildings**  
**Ballymiscaw**  
**Stormont**

18 June 2021  
AQW 19840/17-22

Roy Beggs has asked:

To ask the Minister of Education to detail (i) the rate per thousand of post-primary school pupils with a less than 85 percent attendance in 2019/20, broken down by (a) constituency; (b) electoral ward by constituency; and (ii) any action being taken to reduce the levels of absenteeism.

## ANSWER

I have arranged for the detail of (a) and (b) of part (i) to be placed in the Assembly library.

- (ii) There are a range of strategies, actions in place to combat pupil absenteeism. These include the Department's "Miss School. Miss Out" Strategy, the case studies papers, "The Challenge of Improving Pupil Attendance at School - Case Studies paper and the Education and Training Inspectorate's Attendance in Schools: an ETI Good Practice Report and Case Studies.

If a school is concerned about a pupil's pattern of attendance or level of absence, and/or if and there is a cause for concern, consultation with the designated Education Welfare Officer should be undertaken.



Peter Weir MLA