

Joint Negotiating Council for the Education and Library Boards - Trade Union Side

Mervyn Storey, MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Education
Room 241
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

EDUCATION 2013

RECEIVED

30 January 2013

Dear Mervyn,

DRAFT ESA BILL - ORAL EVIDENCE

I am writing on behalf of the unions representing non teaching staff in the Education Sector, representing many thousands of workers across the 8 employment areas affected by the draft ESA Bill, currently being considered by the Education Committee.

It has been brought to our attention through articles in the press in the last few days that the Committee has decided that no further oral evidence will be heard and that the Committee has now commenced its scrutiny stage of the draft Bill. On behalf of the 4 main Unions I would like to express our surprise at this development on 3 grounds.

- When the 4 Unions representing non-teaching staff met with you previously last October we had expressed a desire to meet the Education Committee when the draft Bill was published. My recollection is that you indicated acceptance of the benefits of the Committee listening to views in respect of members who would be affected by the proposed changes.
- In the NIPSA response to the draft Bill I concluded by stating "***NIPSA would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Education Committee to discuss its position in respect of the transfer of staff to the new organisation.***". A response was not received to indicate that the Education Committee did not think it appropriate to hear the views of my own Union, which represents in excess of 8000 members in the Education Sector, not to mention the views of the other 3 major Unions as well.
- Trade Union Side acknowledges that the Education Committee has made considerable efforts to obtain the views of many stakeholders and those with an interest in Education, including seeking a contribution from the teaching

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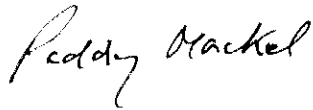
Ms T Trainor, Unite, 26-34 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AA. Tele 028 9023 2381; Fax 028 9032 9904.

- Unions. However there is a significant gap when Unions representing more than 20,000 workers in 1200 schools, Education and Library Boards, CCMS etc have not been given the opportunity to supplement their written submissions.

On behalf of the Unions representing non teaching staff I would request that this correspondence is brought to the attention of the Education Committee with a view to agreeing to meet with a small delegation from the 4 Unions involved.

Your early consideration of the above would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



PADDY MACKEL
Lead Trade Union Side Secretary