

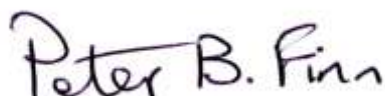
16 November 2012

Mr Peter McCallion  
Clerk to the Committee for Education

### Committee Stage of the Education Bill

Further to your letter of 03 October 2012, I wish to inform the Committee for Education on my views of the contents of the Bill with particular reference to two points as outlined below.

Yours sincerely



Professor Peter Finn  
Principal, St Mary's University College

1. With reference to page 9 *Other Functions of ESA*, in paragraph 14 the Bill sets out the duty of ESA to provide or secure the provision of training and advisory and support services for the Board of Governors of grant-aided schools.

There is no reference as to how or from whom ESA might secure such provision.

It is my contention that the Education Bill presents an opportunity to require ESA to engage in a strategic and coherent way with the teacher education providers in the state-funded higher education sector in Northern Ireland.

It is my view that the most appropriate and most effective CPD activity for teachers is via engagement with a Masters degree or Masters-level teacher education and this is consistent with the advice of the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET) and international best practice.

2. With reference to page 26 Part 3 *Inspections on behalf of DEL*, in section 47 (2) the Bill refers to (b) a college of education.

Should the Bill intend to refer to St Mary's as an example, this institution is now a University College as designated by the Privy Council so the title of 'college of education' is not appropriate in my view.

Further, irrespective of the designation as a college of education or a University College, there is the substantive matter of how the Bill relates to the 1986 No. 594 The Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 Part VI Teachers. Section 66 of the Order provides for the *Department of Education to make such arrangements as it considers expedient for securing the provision by others of sufficient facilities for the initial and further training of teachers for service in schools and other educational establishments in Northern Ireland.*

By this statutory instrument the Department of Education is responsible for teacher education provision in Northern Ireland. This provision is not consistent, in my view, with the reference to (b) a college of education (or University College) subject to inspections on behalf of DEL.