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INFORMATION**



Mr M Storey, MLA,
Chairman of the Committee for Education
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3XX

Monday 7th January 2013

Dear Mervyn

I write to express the thanks of the Transferor Representatives' Council for the opportunity given to us to present both written and oral submissions to the Education Committee prior to Christmas. We were received very graciously at the Committee and felt that our views were listened to and engaged with. Towards the end of the meeting you as Chairman invited us to submit, early in the New Year, any additional points we might wish to raise. At this stage we would like to take up your kind offer by raising one additional matter not previously included in our written submission.

This matter relates to the very specific situation when a controlled secondary school and a controlled grammar school come together to form a new amalgamated school. (You will be aware that this has recently happened in Strabane, where the merging of Strabane High School and Strabane Grammar School to form Strabane Academy was an excellent solution fully supported by the Transferors.) Often in these circumstances the most acceptable way forward is for the new school to have a 'grammar school constitution'. Transferors fully recognise, and indeed support, the reasoning behind this. However, this does mean that Transferors in such cases have to surrender their right of nomination to the Board of Governors of the new amalgamated school. (Transferors have a legal right of four nominations to a controlled secondary school Board but no right of nomination to a controlled grammar school Board).

As this approach of amalgamation of secondary and grammar schools may well be a solution in other areas, Transferors would request that in the context of the ESA Bill some legislative way might be found to protect their legal right of nomination in such situations. While obviously not wishing to be prescriptive as to any particular solution, Transferors are willing to engage with officials or others to seek to identify a satisfactory resolution to this issue.

Thanking you and the Committee for your anticipated assistance in this matter and wishing you well in the important task of scrutiny in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely

Revd IW Ellis

cc. Mr Danny Kinahan MLA (Deputy Chairman), Mr P McCallion (Committee Clerk)

Chairman: Bishop Ken Good

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