



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Education

Veronica Bintley
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Bangor
BT19 7PR

13 December 2013

Our Ref: PMcC/SMcG/1092

Dear Veronica

ETI and School Improvement Inquiry

At its meeting on 11 December 2013, the Committee noted a Departmental response (dated 28 November 2013) to queries relating to its Inquiry into the ETI and School Improvement process.

Members felt that point 9 – Further information on the weighting allocated in school inspections to end of Key Stage assessments (as opposed to individual school pupil monitoring systems) as compared to other inspection findings - was not adequately answered. The Committee therefore agreed to again write to the Department and seek a response.

Can you therefore please confirm as to if/how GCSE, A-level or End of Key Stage results are weighted or considered in determining the evaluation of a school?

Perhaps in your response, you might also comment on (page 122) of the recent OECD report which states: “The ETI does not use a scoring system to evaluate a school’s overall effectiveness. Rather, each inspection team reaches a professional consensus taking account of all available evidence,

*Committee for Education
Room 375, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX
Tel: (028) 9052 1201 Fax: (028) 9052 21974
E-mail: peter.mccallion@niassembly.gov.uk*

including its direct evaluation of the school's strengths and areas for improvement in the context of its knowledge of the school." Could you also please indicate how schools are advised in respect of this aspect of the inspection process and how transparency is assured?

A response by 10 January 2014 would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter McCallion', written in a cursive style.

Peter McCallion
Committee Clerk