



Department of  
**Education**

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Dear Peter

I refer to your letter of 10 January 2014 and in particular the last paragraph of your letter regarding the benefits or otherwise of increased independence for ETI from the Department in-line with the practice in other jurisdictions.

ETI's independence relates to the way in which it reports on education and training. In its inspection work and policy advice, ETI always reports without fear or favour and without interference from individuals or external agencies.

Inspectors carry out their work without any Ministerial influence and independently from all of the departments for which it provides inspection services.

The Department of Education will have its own views on the benefits or otherwise of increased independence for the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) from the Department. From an ETI perspective there are clearly advantages in having the DE Corporate Services and use of premises available to the organisation. It has always been the case that the regulations and legislation under which ETI operates is a matter for the NI Executive or government at that particular time.

Yours sincerely

**VERONICA BINTLEY**  
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer