



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Education

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Dear Noelle

ETI and School Improvement Process Inquiry – draft summary report

The Committee for Education would like to thank you, Faustina Graham, John Anderson and Heather Jackson for the very informative briefing on Wednesday 12 March 2014 as part of the Inquiry into the Education and Training Inspectorate and School Improvement Process.

During the Q&A it appeared that you had indicated that ETI does **not** share draft school inspection reports with the Department.

As you are aware, in AQW 26136/11, DE advised: “Inspection teams share the key findings with their DE colleagues once the inspection has concluded. Subsequently, they forward the published report. Each school inspected receives a letter from DE congratulating them on the outcome or alternatively outlining what action is required by the Board of Governors in response to the inspection findings.”

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Also in oral evidence to the Committee on 16/10/13, Faustina indicated:

“Truthfully, looking at the number of inspection reports that go through our hands, in our directorate dealing with schools, the processes that would have been described in answer to that question are exactly what happens in the Department. Colleagues in the school improvement team in the Department will receive the same information that the school receives. In other words, at the verbal report back with the school, we leave a summary sheet, which is a short, one-page document that sums up the findings of the inspection. That is left in confidence with the school, and that is exactly the same information that is passed on to the Department. After that, we work through our processes and the inspection report is published. There is no contact between ourselves and colleagues in the Department before the publication of that report. The process will be continued in schools where there is an entry into the formal intervention process, because that will kick-start a process, but it is clearly outlined in annex C of Every School a Good School what the process is. We follow it to the letter, and we have to, given the volume of reports that we deal with.”

I would be most grateful if you would clarify if ETI indeed share a draft summary version of all or any of its school inspection reports with DE prior to the final report being agreed with the school? Can you also clarify if ETI only shares draft summary reports with DE where the school is likely to go into Formal Intervention?

The Committee is keen to conclude all evidence-taking for the Inquiry, I would therefore be most grateful if you would respond at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Signed Peter McCallion

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