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Lear

Peter McCallion
Clerk to the Committee for Education
Room 375a
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

Tel No: (028) 9127 9849
Fax No: (028) 9127 9100

Email: veronica.bintley@deni.gov.uk

Your ref: PMcC/SMcG/1278

21 March 2014

Peter

DRAFT SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS

Thank you for your letter of 14 March 2014 requesting clarification in relation to school inspection reports. I can confirm that ETI does not share draft school inspection reports with colleagues in the Department.

At the end of every inspection there is a verbal report given to the principal and governors of the school. At this time a short written summary of the Performance Levels for achievements and standards, quality of provision for learning, leadership and management and overall effectiveness (4 PLs in total), and an outline of any areas for improvement (key findings) is provided to the school. The intention is to allow the school to begin any preliminary work on identified areas for improvement as soon as possible and in advance of the publication of the report.

If a school has received an overall evaluation of inadequate or unsatisfactory then it will enter into the Formal Intervention Process. In that case, the Department of Education (DE) expects a management response from the school within 30 days of the inspection, providing a broad outline of the actions the governors intend to take in response to the inspection findings. In the case of an inadequate or unsatisfactory evaluation, ETI will provide DE colleagues in the School Improvement Team with the short summary document that was given to the school, to enable the process to proceed as efficiently as possible for all concerned. This document is not provided to DE colleagues for inspections where the outcome is satisfactory or above.

If the child protection and safeguarding arrangements are evaluated as unsatisfactory senior DE colleagues will be informed in writing as soon as possible.

Other than what is outlined above there is no information provided to DE colleagues in advance of publication of the report. For absolute clarity, there is no interference by the Department in any of the inspection evaluations. ETI independently and without fear or favour determine the evaluation outcomes.

I enclose a copy of a sample document with the name of the school redacted to let you see the level of information provided.

Yours sincerely

Veronica

VERONICA BINTLEY
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer