



Department of  
**Education**

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MÄNNYSTRIE O

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19 May 2014

Dear Peter

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE: INTEGRATED / SHARED EDUCATION INQUIRY**

Thank you for your enquiry dated 6 May 2014 in relation to the statement made by the Minister on 23 October 2014 in relation to advancing Shared Education, I have been asked to reply.

The Committee will wish to note that the Minister has previously indicated that discussions were ongoing with OFMdfM and the Atlantic Philanthropies to establish a shared education funding stream. This work is at an advanced stage and it is expected that an announcement will be made before the summer recess with the programme commencing in the 2014/15 academic year.

The programme is being designed to address a number of actions referenced by the Minister including support for teachers and Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) engagement.

ETI will progress the work of Shared Education within inspection and district work with a view of identifying how 'sharing' has the potential to enhance learners' educational and social learning.

In preparing for this work a team of ETI Inspectors will develop Shared Education indicators, protocols and materials for inspection and district work. The team will also provide ongoing staff development on writing, reporting and recording of effective Shared Education practice.

In the absence of progress with the Education Bill, the Minister is considering other alternatives for legislation that would define and help ensure progress in advancing Shared Education. The Committee will of course be briefed on these at the appropriate juncture.

As part of his statement on advancing shared education, the Minister made clear his aim that every school will have an effective method of encouraging young people's participation in the life of the school. The Department is already committed to encouraging all schools to find meaningful ways of giving children and young people a voice and of listening and responding to their views and continues to encourage schools to adopt the Democra-schools programme.

The Minister has indicated his intention to bring forward guidance on sharing options for schools and communities that will assist in providing practical advice relevant for a development proposal. It is anticipated that this work will be progressed during the period of the inquiry.

The Committee will also wish to note that both the Area Planning Terms of Reference and subsequent guidance already encourages Shared Education options to be brought forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "V. Bintley (mm)".

**VERONICA BINTLEY**  
**Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer**