

To whom it may concern,

In relation to the definition of Shared Education, I am concerned that other aspects of section 75 are not specified in the bill as being equally relevant and pertinent areas to explore via Shared Education. I think it is important to ensure that we also reflect the changing multi-cultural dynamic within our modern society and not solely cite the Protestant and Catholic traditions as the primary specified participants within Shared Education. Whilst it is important to address reconciliation issues, it is important that we do not assume that young people have similar concerns and challenges as adults .

Does the failure to include NICIE within the specified Section 2 groups mean that integrated educational institutions will not be included , valued or viewed as integral to the process or are they to be viewed as a separate entity? The bill does not provide the necessary clarity on this issue; from my perspective there are opportunities for all sectors to mutually benefit from the experience.

Could communities or charities be included as relevant providers of education? We currently work with Hapani Charity for Refugees to provide a Saturday school for parents and this ultimately impacts pupil outcomes. It is important to think outside the box and ensure we are not too prescriptive in terms of relevant providers, as we could ultimately limit the opportunities and limit the number of potential participants .

I am grateful for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the bill.

Kind regards,

Maire Thompson

Principal,
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