



**Robin Swann, Chairperson
Committee for Employment and Learning**

Michelle O'Neill
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
DARD Private Office
Room 438
Dundonald House
Ballymiscaw
Belfast BT4 3SB

23 January 2014

Dear Michelle,

Re: Committee Inquiry into post Special Educational Need Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities in Northern Ireland.

The Committee for Employment and Learning is undertaking an inquiry into post Special Educational Need (SEN) Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities in Northern Ireland.

The purpose of the Inquiry is to address the concerns raised by the Committee and advocates for those individuals with learning disabilities and their families that once they leave full time education where they have had long-term support they find themselves with very little help or options for what they do next.

The Committee will critically examine post SEN provision in Northern Ireland including consideration of the current policies, programmes and opportunities available in Northern Ireland for those with learning disabilities leaving education with particular focus on those with moderate and severe learning disabilities as per the SEN categorisation.

The Committee will make recommendations, where appropriate, on how policies, procedures and practises can be improved in order to maximise

Committee for Employment and Learning
Room 375, Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3XX
Telephone: (028) 9052 1767
E-mail: cel@niassembly.gov.uk

opportunities to support the transition from education for those with learning disabilities and to alleviate the worry and concern of their families.

At its meeting on 15 January 2014, the Committee finalised the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry and agreed, given the cross-cutting nature of the issue, that I write to you requesting that you provide a written submission to the Inquiry.

The Terms of Reference are attached at Annex A and further details on the inquiry can be found at <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Committees/Employment-and-Learning/Inquiries/>

Full guidance on how the written submission should be structured is at Annex C however you should be particularly mindful of the following:

- The submission should be made available in electronic form and in a Word Document format.
- Submissions should respond to each of the terms of reference in turn and clearly specify which of the terms they are responding to. You do not need to respond on all the terms of reference if they are not pertinent to the points that you wish to make.
- Background information should be kept to a minimum - a maximum of one page for information on your organisation or your experience of this field.

The closing date for written submissions is 21 March 2014.

If you require any further information please contact the Committee Clerk, Cathie White, on 028 9052 1448.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson

Committee for Employment and Learning
Room 375, Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3XX
Telephone: (028) 9052 1767
E-mail: cel@niassembly.gov.uk