

Mrs Cathie White  
Clerk to the Committee  
Committee for Employment and Learning Committee  
Room 346  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont  
BELFAST  
BT4 3XX

**Our Ref: COR/161/13**

April 2014

Dear Cathie,

At the Committee for Employment and Learning meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014, members sought an update on addressing transport related barriers to access to further education, for people with learning difficulties, in rural areas.

The Department has carried out some initial research and is currently examining all available funding sources, both within DEL and other government Departments, in order to identify the scale of the problem and consider potential remedies. The next steps will be to identify:

- (i) any potential gaps in provision;
- (ii) the number of potential students affected; and
- (iii) how any funding gap could be met.

I will keep the Committee updated on progress.

I trust you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

**FIONA STANLEY**  
**Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer**