

FROM THE MINISTER



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28 October 2013

AQW 27403/11-15

Lord Morrow has asked:

To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning pursuant to AQW 26901/11-15, to detail (i) why he is refusing to allow full sight of the audit; and (ii) the findings in regard to the other colleges included in the audit.

ANSWER

As I mentioned in my response to AQW 26901/11-15, I have shared the findings of the audit of further education provision for adults with learning disabilities, in South West College, with Lord Morrow and the Committee for Employment and Learning, as agreed.

The audit was conducted by my Department to determine the availability of provision and is available to those who require it. As such, I have included a copy of the audit with my reply.



**DR STEPHEN FARRY MLA
Minister for Employment and Learning**



AUDIT OF FE SECTOR PROVISION FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES - 2012/13**Special Needs Provision in the FE sector**

All six colleges were asked to provide details of provision offered in the 2012/13 academic year, for students who, as a result of their particular learning difficulty/disability, are unable to participate in mainstream college provision. This is termed 'discrete' provision and is supported by the Department through the Additional Support Fund (ASF). This funding allows colleges to provide additional lecturers or classroom assistants to facilitate smaller class sizes, thus creating a more suitable learning environment for students who require higher levels of support. This provision is delivered in either a main college campus or in a college outreach centre.

Audit Findings

The table attached at **Appendix 1**, contains information on FE provision for students with moderate to severe learning difficulties, by college and campus location, for courses delivered in 2012/13 (students undertaking these courses were supported by the Department's Additional Support Fund). It should be noted that the term "courses" may refer to provision ranging from full-time up to 30 hours per week duration, to part-time of one to two hours per week in duration.

Summary**South Eastern Regional College (SERC)**

The college provided information in relation to their discrete provision across all campuses. The results provided, indicate that a total of 12 courses were in place across four campuses; 2 in Newtownards, 1 in Bangor, 5 in Downpatrick and 4 Lisburn). Course levels ranged from Entry Level to Level 1.

North West Regional College (NWRC)

The college had in place a total of 40 courses across three campuses; 4 in Limavady, 13 in Strabane and 15 at the Strand Road campus. A further 8 courses were delivered off campus. Course levels ranged from non-accredited level to level 1.

Northern Regional College (NRC)

The college had in place a total of 22 courses across six campuses; 2 in Antrim, 5 in Ballymena, 1 in Coleraine, 2 in Larne, 6 in Magherafelt and 6 in Newtownabbey. Course levels ranged from non-accredited level to level 1 courses.

Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC)

The college had in place a total of 45 courses across six campuses; 4 in Castlereagh, 4 in Chichester Avenue, 21 in Millfield, 6 in Riddell, 1 in Tower Street and 2 in Whiterock. A further 7 courses were delivered off campus. Course levels ranged from non-accredited level to level 1.

Southern Regional College (SRC)

The college had in place a total of a total of 35 courses across six campuses; 10 in Armagh, 6 in Banbridge, 6 in Lurgan, 1 in Kilkeel, 2 in Newry and 3 in Portadown. A further 7 courses were delivered off campus. Course levels ranged from non-accredited level to level 2 courses.

South West College (SWC)

The college had in place a total of 61 courses across three campuses; 6 in Cookstown, 6 in Enniskillen and 49 in Omagh. Course levels ranged from non-accredited level to level 1 courses.

APPENDIX 1

FE COURSE PROVISION FOR STUDENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, BY COLLEGE AND CAMPSUS LOCATION

Guide to tables: The tables below provide a break down, by campus level, of the number of discrete, standalone courses available for students with a learning difficulty and/or disability and the qualification level. Students undertaking these courses are supported by the Additional Support Fund.

South Eastern Regional College (SERC)

Courses by qualification level					
Campus	Non-accredited	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Downpatrick	0	4	1	0	5
Lisburn	0	3	1	0	4
Ards	0	1	1	0	2
Bangor	0	1	0	0	1
Total	0	9	3	0	12

North West Regional College (NWRC)

Courses by qualification level					
Campus	Non-accredited	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Strand Road	3	5	7	0	15
Limavady	0	2	2	0	4
Strabane	9	2	2	0	13
Off campus	8	0	0	0	8
Total	20	9	11	0	40

Northern Regional College (NRC)

Courses by qualification level					
Campus	Non-accredited	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Antrim	0	2	0	0	2
Ballymena	1	4	0	0	5
Coleraine	0	0	1	0	1
Larne	1	1	0	0	2
Magherafelt	4	2	0	0	6
Newtownabbey	6	0	0	0	6
Total	12	9	1	0	22

Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC)

Courses by qualification level					
Campus	Non-accredited	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Millfield	0	16	5	0	21
Tower Street	0	0	1	0	1
Whiterock	0	2	0	0	2
Riddell	0	6	0	0	6
Castlereagh	0	4	0	0	4
Chichester Avenue	0	4	0	0	4
Off campus	0	7	0	0	7
Total	0	39	6	0	45

Southern Regional College (SRC)

Courses by qualification level					
Campus	Non-accredited	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Armagh	6	3	1	0	10
Banbridge	2	1	3	0	6
Lurgan	2	1	3	0	6
Kilkeel	0	1	0	0	1
Newry	1	1	0	0	2
Portadown	1	1	1	0	3
Off campus	4	1	0	2	7
Total	16	9	8	2	35

South West College (SWC)

Courses by qualification level					
Campus	Non-accredited	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Cookstown	3	0	3	0	6
Enniskillen	0	2	4	0	6
Omagh	0	47	2	0	49
Total	3	49	9	0	61

DAY CENTRE PROVISION, DELIVERED BY FE COLLEGES FOR ADULTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Guide to table: The table below provides a break down, by college, of the provision, delivered by FE colleges to adults with moderate to severe learning difficulties, in day centres. Whilst it is recognised that this type of provision adds quality to the lives of these individuals and enhances their experiences, such courses are generally recreational and non-progressing. Individuals undertaking these courses do not receive support from the Additional Support Fund.

College	Numbers of available courses and qualification level				
	Non-accredited	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2	College totals
SERC	0	1	5	0	6
NWRC	61	5	2	2	70
NRC	42	0	0	0	42
BMC	36	0	0	0	36
SRC	14	4	1	2	21
SWC	111	0	5	1	117