DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Peter Weir, Minister

Rathgael House, Balloo Road Bangor, BT19 7PR

Justin McNulty MLA Parliament Buildings Ballymiscaw Stormont

> 19 March 2021 AQW 15713/17-22

Justin McNulty MLA has asked:

To ask the Minister of Education how much has been allocated per school to help with the implementation of new special educational needs legislation.

ANSWER

I provided £7.5m of additional funding to support over 1,100 schools in making the necessary preparations for implementation of the new Special Educational Needs (SEN) Framework. I have arranged for a breakdown of allocations by school to be placed in the Assembly Library.

This additional support was allocated directly to schools in December 2020 with a view to covering the period January to March 2021, and is specifically focussed on preparing for the statutory requirements to have a designated Learning Support Coordinator (LSC - currently the SENCo) on staff. A recurring annual pressure of £30m to continue this support beyond March 2021 is anticipated.

Peter Weir MLA