



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

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4 November 2025

Dear Ronnie

**MEMORANDUM OF REPLY: DEVELOPING THE SKILLS FOR NI'S
FUTURE**

**Developing the Skills for Northern Ireland's Future – Careers Guidance
and Data Sharing**

The Public Accounts Committee recently reviewed the Department for the Economy's response to our report *Developing the Skills for Northern Ireland's Future*.

During the Committee's discussion, Members noted the strong cross-departmental nature of this work and agreed to seek clarity from the Department of Education on two priority areas:

1. Careers Education (Recommendation 10)

The Committee welcomes the commissioning of ETI to evaluate careers provision. Careers guidance is fundamental to young people's pathway choices and the effectiveness of the wider skills system.

The Committee therefore seeks:

- Details of resources allocated to strengthen careers delivery

- Any contingency planning should the ETI review require additional reform
- Assurance that improvements will align with the Skills Action Plan and the 14–19 Framework

2. Data Sharing (Recommendation 6)

Members noted the involvement of DE, DfE and DoH but expressed concern at the lack of clear timelines and accountability. The Committee underlined the importance of resolving barriers to information sharing, particularly for learners with SEN and those at risk of becoming NEET.

The Committee requests:

- Confirmation of DE's role in this work
- Steps planned to remove legislative or operational constraints
- Expected timeline for completion and implementation
- How outcomes will be reported to the PAC.

The Committee has requested a response by **21 November**.

Yours sincerely



Daniel McCrossan
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee