



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

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1 July 2025

**Subject: Committee Request – School Maintenance Funding and
Delivery Mechanisms**

Dear Ms Thomasson,

The Public Accounts Committee is currently conducting an inquiry into the findings of the Northern Ireland Audit Office report *Managing the Schools Estate* (2024). As part of this work, the Committee wishes to understand the practical experiences of different school sectors in accessing and delivering funding for maintenance of the school estate.

The Committee would be grateful if you could outline, on behalf of your sector:

1. Funding and Delivery Mechanisms

- How is **funding for school maintenance** allocated and delivered in your sector?
- What role do individual schools play in managing day-to-day maintenance?
- How are **capital maintenance** projects funded and prioritised?
- What are the key differences in process compared to schools where the Education Authority (EA) is responsible for maintenance?

2. Governance and Control

- Who is responsible for identifying, approving, and procuring maintenance works?
- What level of control do schools or boards of governors have over how funds are used?

- Are you required to comply with any procurement frameworks (e.g. CPD/Education Authority frameworks)?

3. What Works Well

- From your sector's perspective, what aspects of the current model work well in terms of:
 - Responsiveness to local needs
 - Efficiency or value for money
 - School-level accountability and flexibility

4. Challenges

- What challenges, if any, have you encountered in your current model?
- Are there delays in funding, procurement, or project delivery?
- Do schools have adequate support or expertise to manage maintenance independently?

5. Comparative View

- In your view, is the model used in your sector more effective than the EA-managed approach used in the controlled and maintained sectors?
- What evidence (quantitative or qualitative) supports this view?

6. Suggestions for Improvement

- Are there improvements you would recommend for the delivery of maintenance funding across the schools estate?

The Committee would be grateful for your response by **5 August**.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel McCrossan
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee