



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Robert Kidd
Chief Executive

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1 July 2025

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Subject: Committee Request – School Maintenance

Dear Mr Kidd,

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 seek the views of the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland.

The Committee would be grateful if you could share your views on the following:

1. Condition and Maintenance Concerns

Has HSENI raised any formal concerns with the Department of Education or the Education Authority about the condition of school buildings in recent years?

Does HSENI consider the current schools estate to be a safe environment for pupils and staff?

2. Compliance and Enforcement

Is HSENI satisfied that the current arrangements in place across the schools estate meet statutory health and safety requirements?

3. Role and Responsibilities

Does HSENI's have any formal role in relation to the schools estate, and how does it coordinate with the Department of Education and the Education Authority?

Does HSENI have a view on whether the current reactive approach to maintenance poses increased safety risks in the school environment?

4. Risk Management and Future Planning

Has HSENI been consulted in the development of any schools estate policies, including condition surveys, planned maintenance, or capital investment programmes?

Are there any additional steps HSENI recommends the Department of Education or Education Authority take to ensure a safe learning environment in light of the NIAO findings?

The Committee would be grateful for your response by **5 August 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel McCrossan', with a small flourish at the end.

Daniel McCrossan
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee