

FROM THE MINISTER/ÓN AIRE



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Department of  
Education

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SUB 963/2014

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Michelle a chara

Following an amendment made at Consideration Stage, the Education Bill requires the Department of Education (DE) to appoint an interim Chief Executive; and places a duty on the Education Authority (EA) to commence a process to appoint a permanent Chief Executive within one year of the date of the Authority's first Board meeting.

I am writing to let the Committee know that, having considered how best to secure the stability of the Authority and ensure that work is progressed from the outset to embed new structures and processes, I have determined that the Chief Executive Designate of ESA (Mr Gavin Boyd), shall be appointed as Chief Executive of the EA on an interim basis until such time as the Authority appoints a permanent Chief Executive.

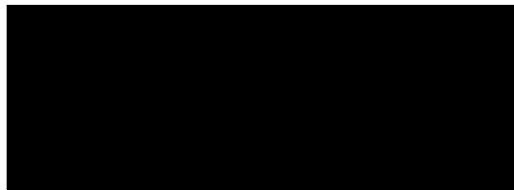
The appointment, which will be for a period up to 31 March 2016 (or to a date thereafter when the Authority has appointed and inducted the permanent Chief Executive), will utilise Mr Boyd's significant experience in preparing for a major change programme affecting the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) and will bring stability to the Authority from the outset. It will also comply with the legislative requirement for DE to appoint an interim Chief Executive and for the Board of the Authority to commence recruitment of a permanent Chief Executive within one year of its first meeting. As the EA officially comes into being the day after Royal Assent is given for the Bill, my intention is that Mr Boyd will take up his post, and input to the necessary preparatory work, at a date to be agreed in the early New Year.



You will recall that I briefed the Committee on the Education Bill on 30 September, in advance of its introduction. During the briefing session I informed you that, in appointing an interim Chief Executive to the EA, I would have to follow public appointments procedures. It is clear, however, that the requirement for an Interim Chief Executive to be placed on the establishment of the Authority precludes the possibility of a lengthy recruitment process. In addition, having taken legal advice, I am satisfied that the EA Chief Executive, whether appointed on an interim or a permanent basis, is not a post regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and therefore the public appointment procedure is not relevant in this particular case.

In coming to my decision, I have also reflected on the potential for conflict of interest in relation to the substantive Chief Executive post. In particular, the concern of conferring an unfair advantage to any individual appointed to the Interim position. I can confirm that this will not be an issue as Mr Boyd has, voluntarily, stated that he will not, in the future, be putting himself forward as a candidate for the permanent post.

Finally, I would like to confirm that, following Royal Assent for the Bill, I intend that 31 March 2015 will be the date for the dissolution of the current ELBs, with 1 April being the date of establishment of the new EA.



**JOHN O'DOWD MLA**  
**Minister for Education**