



Department of  
**Education**

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AN ROINN  
**Oideachais**

MÁNNYSTRIE O  
**Lear**

FROM THE MINISTER/ÓN AIRE

20 November 2014

## **EDUCATION BILL – ESTABLISHMENT OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

I am pleased to inform you that the Education Bill completed its Final stage in the Assembly on 17 November, which will, subject to Royal Assent, enable the establishment of the new Education Authority from 1 April 2015. Whilst this is some way short of the scale of education reform that was intended under the Education and Skills Authority, it represents a significant step forward, bringing stability and certainty to the education sector and providing a platform for future rationalisation and improvements in education administration.

I want to thank staff across the entire education sector for the commitment and dedication shown in maintaining educational services during what has been a protracted period of uncertainty. I also wish to assure staff in the ELBs and the Staff Commission who will transfer to the new Authority that they will retain their current terms and conditions, including the protection of pension arrangements.

A significant programme of work will now have to start to bring the Education Authority into being. I have no doubt there will be challenges ahead, but the focus must be on maintaining a high standard of service delivery.

I ask for your continuing support and commitment during this transition and assure you that key stakeholders will be fully informed and consulted as this major programme of change is implemented.

I believe that by working together we can deliver a new future for education administration that will make a positive and lasting contribution to the educational services we provide to all our children.



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