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8 April 2014

Dear Peter

Thank you for your letter of 28 March 2014 requesting further clarification in relation to school inspection reports. I reiterate that there is no interference by the Department in any of the inspection evaluations. The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) independently and without fear or favour determines the evaluation outcomes.

There is no contradiction in the response in AQW 26136/11-15 and the response provided to the Committee on 21 March 2014. However, I hope that the further clarification outlined below resolves any perceived ambiguities.

The AQW 26136/11-15 stated: *To ask the Minister of Education what arrangements exist between his Department and the Education and Training Inspectorate once a school inspection is **completed*** (my highlight). The inspection is only completed /concluded when the inspection report is published. There are two stages to this process 1) a copy of the final report is issued to the school by the ETI, usually two to three days before its publication on the ETI website. At that point the School Improvement Team in the Department is copied into the final report that issues to the school. 2) When this final report is actually published on the website, the Press Office and others on the circulation list are copied into the published report for ease of access. The version that issues to the school and that published on the website are identical.

In your letter of 14 March 2014 you asked for additional clarification in relation to Formal Intervention; *Can you clarify if ETI only shares draft summary reports with DE*

where the school is likely to go into Formal Intervention? This is clarified in the response of 28 March 2014 which states that the short summary document, the same document that is given to the principal and governors at the verbal report, is provided to the School Improvement Team. The rationale for this is outlined in the response of 28 March 2014.

Yours sincerely

Veronica

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Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer