



Department for  
**Employment  
and Learning**  
[www.delni.gov.uk](http://www.delni.gov.uk)

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Dear Cathie

I refer to the Committee's e-mail of 17th October 2013, regarding the audit of further education (FE) college provision for Post-19 Special Educational Needs (SEN) students. The Department has provided the following response to the questions, raised by the Committee.

The post-19 SEN audit of provision was conducted in April/May 2013 and was based upon information provided by colleges for the 2012/13 academic year. However, validated statistical information for the 2012/13 academic year will not be available until December 2013; therefore, the Department has provided a response to the Committee, based upon data for the 2011/12 academic year, which is the latest academic year for which information is available. The Department will forward a response to the Committee, based upon 2012/13 data, when this information is published.

**(i) A detailed breakdown of courses (by subject) for those with learning difficulties**

I can advise there are 15 key subject areas, provided by FE colleges, for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities; these subject areas are provided below:

Health, Public Services & Care  
Science & Mathematics  
Agriculture, Horticulture & Animal Care  
Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies

Construction, Planning & the Built Environment  
Information & Communication Technology  
Retail & Commercial Enterprise  
Leisure, Travel & Tourism  
Arts, Media & Publishing  
History, Philosophy & Theology  
Social Sciences  
Languages, Literature & Culture  
Education & Training  
Preparation for Life & Work  
Business, Administration & Law.

Within each of these subject areas there are many variations in courses and qualifications (a sample of the type of courses has been provided at **Appendix A**).

**(ii) The percentage of those individuals with learning difficulties, who are attending colleges and who are completing courses to level 2.**

During the 2011/12 academic year, 40% of students, declaring learning difficulties and/or disabilities, were enrolled on Level 2 mainstream courses and 7.5% of those enrolled in discrete programmes were participating in a Level 2 course.

Discrete programmes are specifically designed for students with moderate to severe learning difficulties/disabilities, for whom mainstream FE provision is not appropriate.

**(iii) An assessment of the overall colleges' use of the Additional Support Fund.**

I can advise that colleges are committed to being inclusive and widening access to further education for those young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Since the introduction of the Additional Support Fund in 1998, there has been an increase in Departmental funding from £300,000 per annum to £4 million per annum. This reflects the continued increase in the number of enrolments of students with a learning difficulty and/or disability. In the 2004/05 academic year there were 13,205 students declaring a disability, which equated to 5% of total enrolments, whereas in 2011/12 (most recent available statistics) this had increased to 22,710 students declaring a disability, which equated to over 12% of total enrolments.

The Fund's aim is to help FE colleges deliver courses and provide individual support and assistance to these young people. The fund provides £2 million for the provision of additional individual technical and personal support and a further

£2 million to provide tailored courses, including smaller class sizes and classroom assistants, for those unable to participate in mainstream courses, due to the nature/degree of their disability/learning difficulty.

In the past, as a result of a continued increase in numbers requiring additional support, many colleges overspent on their individual allocations and the Department, in turn, met these overspends. On occasion, colleges had to restrict the level of support given to some students to ensure as many students as possible, needing support, could receive it. This was a major driving factor in the Department's recent decision to increase the money available to colleges under the Additional Support Fund. That increase in funding aims to ensure that the level of support provided by colleges is reflective of the numbers of eligible students and the level of support needed.

The Department has introduced additional arrangements to monitor the number of students receiving personal and technical assistance through the ASF, to allow the Department to assess the effectiveness of the additional funding.

Yours sincerely

**FIONA STANLEY**  
**Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer**



## APPENDIX A

### FE Discrete Provision - Example of courses provided

(AQA) Personal & Social Education (Transition A)
(AQA) Personal & Social Education (Transition B)
CCEA Level 1 Occupational Studies (Design and Creativity) - Workskills
EDEXCEL Level 1 Certificate - Workskills
C&G Entry Level Start IT (Transition A)
C&G Entry Level Start IT (Transition B)
Transition Programme (EDEXCEL Workskills) F/T Year 1
Transition Programme (EDEXCEL Workskills) F/T Year 2
Transition Programme (EDEXCEL Workskills) F/T Year 2
EDEXCEL Entry Level Business Administration
Art for Positive Mental Health (Beacon Centre)
SEN Catering - INFILL Intro F/T Level 1 Hospitality
SEN Cookery
Gateway Club
Mental Health / Personal Development
(AQA) Entry Level 3 Personal & Social Education (Transition) Year 1
(AQA) Entry Level 3 Personal & Social Education (Transition) Year 2
Transition Programme (EDEXCEL Workskills) F/T Year 1
Transition Programme (EDEXCEL Workskills) F/T Year 2
(AQA) Entry Level 3 Personal & Social Education (Transition) Year 1
(AQA) Entry Level 3 Personal & Social Education (Transition) Year 1
Transition Programme (EDEXCEL Workskills) F/T Year 1
Transition Programme (EDEXCEL Workskills) F/T Year 2
Yoga
Recreational Art
Introduction to Beauty / Reflexology
Cookery
Creative Writing
Creative Writing
Numeracy Through Sport Team Teaching
Woodwork

Wider Choices City & Guilds Certificate in Employability and Personal Development (QFC)
Wider Choices City & Guilds Certificate in Personal Progress (QFC)
Wider Choices City & Guilds Certificate in Personal Progress (QFC)
Wider Choices City & Guilds Certificate in Personal Progress (QFC)
Horizons Life Skills (Non - Accredited)
Wider Choices City & Guilds Certificate in Personal Progress (QFC)
Wider Choices City & Guilds Certificate in Personal Progress (QFC)
Horizons OCR ITQ Level 1 Award in IT User Skills
Horizons OCR ITQ Level 1 Award in IT User Skills
Wider Choices City & Guilds Certificate in Employability and Personal Development (QFC)
Horizons Art/Crafts (Non Accredited)
Wider Choices City & Guilds Certificate in Personal Progress (QFC)
Wider Choices City & Guilds Certificate in Employability and Personal Development (QFC)
Horizons - Life Skills (Non- Accredited)

Routeways Retail Diploma - Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Vocational Studies (QCF) (TFS Workskills)
Routeways Retail Certificate - Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Vocational Studies (QCF) (TFS Workskills)
Computers -OCR Entry Level Certificate in ICT Skills for Life Entry Level 1 – Entry Level 3
Computers -OCR Entry Level Certificate in ICT Skills for Life Entry Level 1 – Entry Level 3
Computers -OCR Entry Level Certificate in ICT Skills for Life Entry Level 1 – Entry Level 3
Computers -OCR Entry Level Certificate in ICT Skills for Life Entry Level 1 – Entry Level 3
Computers -OCR Entry Level Certificate in ICT Skills for Life Entry Level 1 – Entry Level 3
Right Track Core Skills - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)
Right Track Core Skills - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)
Right Independent Living Skills - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)
Right Independent Living Skills - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)
Right Independent Living Skills - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)



Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)
Right Track Community - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)
Right Track Creative Activity - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)
Right Track ICT - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)
Introduction to College - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)
Right Track Creative Activity - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)
Skills for Everyday Life -NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF) (1 unit)
Feast Programme -NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF) (1 unit)
Practical Cookery -NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF) (1 unit)
Introduction to Garden Horticulture -NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF) (1 unit)
Personal Development - NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF) (1 unit)
Skills for Everyday Life -NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF) (1 unit)
Skills for Everyday Life -NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF) (1 unit)
Skills for Everyday Life -NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF) (1 unit)
Arts and Crafts -NOCN Entry Level Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF) (1 unit)
NOCN Entry Level Award in Progression (QCF)