Northern Ireland
Assembly

Irish-medium Education (Workforce Plan) Bill

Marshalled List of Amendments
Consideration Stage

Tuesday 15 September 2026

Amendments tabled up to 9.30am Wednesday, 9 September 2026 and selected for debate

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The Bill will be considered in the following order—

Clauses and Long Title

Amendment 1

Clause 1, Page 1

Leave out clause 1 and insert—

'Irish-medium education workforce plan

1.—(1) The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 is amended as follows.

(2) In Article 89, in paragraph (4), for "this article" substitute "this Article and Article 89ZA,".

(3) After Article 89 insert—

"Irish-medium education workforce plan

89ZA.—(1) The Department must issue a workforce plan in respect of Irish-medium education, which is to set out measurable targets against which its effectiveness is to be assessed.

(2) The Department must—

(a) keep the workforce plan under review, and

(b) revise and reissue the plan at least once every 5 years.

(3) The Department must—

(a) publish the workforce plan whenever the plan is issued or reissued, and

(b) lay the plan before the Assembly as soon as the plan is published.

(4) In preparing or revising the workforce plan, the Department must consult—

(a) persons representative of—

(i) governing bodies of schools providing Irish-medium education,

(ii) teachers at such schools,

(iii) pupils at such schools

(iv) parents of pupils at such schools,

(b) Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, or any successor to that body, and

(c) such other persons as the Department thinks fit.

(5) In preparing or revising the workforce plan, the Department must take account of these factors in particular—

(a) the range of schools providing Irish-medium education,

(b) the current and foreseeable demands on such schools,

(c) the sufficiency of the workforce at such schools to meet such demands,

(d) the needs for recruitment, retention and development of the workforce at such schools, and

(e) the different disciplines or contributions (whether by way of teaching or otherwise) of the people comprising the workforce at such schools.

(6) Within 18 months of laying the workforce plan before the Assembly as issued or reissued, the Department must—

(a) publish a report on the implementation and effectiveness of the plan, and

(b) lay the report before the Assembly as published.".

(4) A workforce plan must be issued under section 89ZA(1) of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 within 12 months of the coming into operation of this Act.'

Mr Pat Sheehan

Amendment 2

As an amendment to Amendment 1

After 89ZA(4)(b), as inserted by subsection (3), insert—

'(bb) those providing informal learning opportunities within the Irish-medium youth sector.'

Mr Pat Sheehan

Amendment 3

Clause 1, Page 1, Line 18

At end insert—

‘(ba) the Education Authority; and’

Chair, Committee for Education

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