

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

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I am writing to follow up on the previous Northern Ireland Affairs Committee's report on *Education Funding in Northern Ireland*, to which your Department responded last October.

One of the recommendations in that report stated that if the Northern Ireland Assembly Education Committee was not reconstituted then your Department would commit to providing annual updates on education funding to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee. The welcome restoration of the devolved institutions has enabled the Education Committee to resume its work at Stormont. I am therefore writing to confirm that the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee will not invite the Department to give evidence under the terms of that recommendation.

In its response to other recommendations, the Department committed to updating the Committee, or to the Assembly Education Committee if it had been reconstituted, on the following areas:

- The terms of reference of the 2020-21 review of the Education Authority (Recommendation 3);
- The review and procurement of contracts for maintenance and minor works (Recommendation 4); and
- Progress of the Education Transformation Programme (Recommendation 15).

I have written to the Chair of the Education Committee, Chris Lyttle MLA, to make him aware of these commitments.

I would also like to thank you and your officials for your co-operation with the Committee's inquiry in the absence of the Assembly. The return of the devolved institutions is welcome, and I wish them well in tackling the challenges of education policy in Northern Ireland.

Simon Hoare MP

Chair Elect, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee