

FROM: MRS J McILWAIN
Inspection Services Branch

DATE: 26 September 2000

To: Dr M Browne

SELECTION REVIEW GROUP

IMG has considered the request made at a recent PSG meeting for possible nominations to the Selection Review Group and agreed the following list:

J Beatty - formerly RTU
J Caves - CCEA
T Doherty - Shantallow TC
T Hesketh - RTU
M Lyons - Springvale
Dr A Moran - HE
P Murphy - BIFHE
Prof R McMinn - Stranmillis
S Pidduck - ex DE
D Vaughan - WELB

Please let me know if you require further details on individual's experience and expertise.

M. J. McIlwain

J McILWAIN (MRS)

Review Body
cc Mr Keever
Mr White } We have picked up
the likely possibilities
from this list.
and 1/6

P.S. To this list should be added
Brian Gail (?) from UV who
says the P.O. (unsubstantiated) to confirm
his willingness to serve, on the
recommendation of Prof. David Bamford.
I phoned his wife to explain that there
had been a misunderstanding!
and 1/6.

SCHOOL FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH

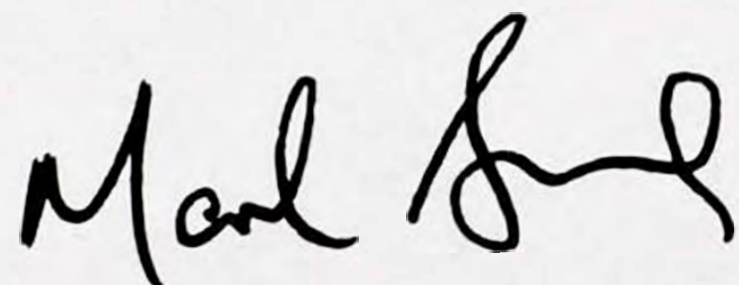
FROM: MARK BROWNE (DR)

DATE: 26 September 2000

*Mr Peover
Mr McVeigh*
cc Mr Peover
Mr McVeigh

Mr Burns

1. Congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the Review Body on Post-Primary Education! I have responsibility for the Transfer Procedure and Selection issues generally in the Department and will be the contact point in the Department for the Review Body.
2. We have arranged an opportunity for you to meet the Minister on Wednesday 27th September at 1.45 pm **in Rathgael House** (not Parliament Buildings as previously advised) to discuss the role and work of the Review Body.
3. It would be useful for officials, and yourself, if we had a brief opportunity before this meeting to discuss the arrangements for the review, including the Terms of Reference, the arrangements for the launch of the Report and the support being provided to the Body. This will also give you an opportunity to meet the Secretary to the Body who will be Mr Alan McVeigh, currently a Grade 5 in the Department. If you can come to Rathgael a little earlier than 1.45pm this would enable a quick chat. Perhaps you could telephone me to let me know if this is possible, on 028 91279338.
4. I enclose for information a copy of our paper to the Executive Committee setting out the process for conducting the Review, including the support for the Body, the Terms Of Reference and the proposed timescale. Copies of the Research Report are also enclosed. This will provide useful background for your meeting with the Minister.
5. I look forward to meeting you on Wednesday.



MARK BROWNE (DR)
☎ 59338

PS/MB/AW/71882

in with
filed

SCHOOLS FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

FROM: MARK BROWNE (DR)

DATE: 15 September 2000

PS/MINISTER

Issue: Paper to Executive Committee on Membership and Terms of Reference of the Review Body on Post-primary education arrangements

Timescale: Urgent. Paper must be with OFM/DFM by Monday lunch-time (18th) to be included on the agenda of EC meeting on 21 September.

Recommendation: That the Minister agrees the draft paper attached which asks the EC to take note of the Terms of Reference and the Chair of the Review Body (Gerry Burns) and the arrangements for determining the remaining membership.

Background

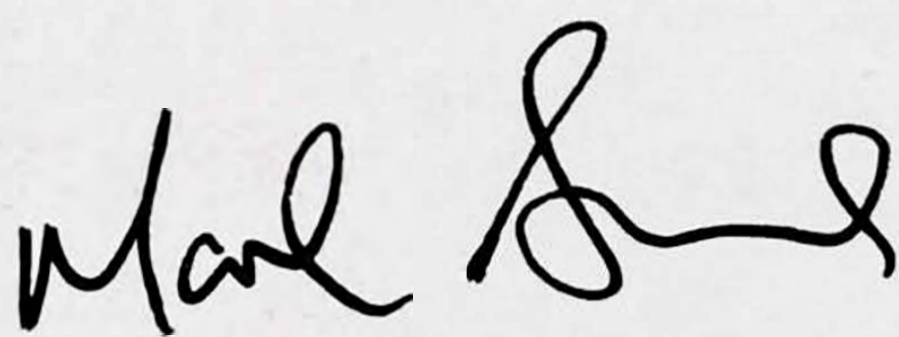
1. We are committed to providing a paper on the membership and Terms of Reference of the Review Body for the Executive Committee meeting on 21st September.
2. This will be a "take note" rather than a discussion paper but members can raise questions provided they are notified in advance (by COP on the previous Tuesday ie 22nd September).
3. The Minister asked that there be consultation with the Education Committee on the membership of the body after the launch on 28th September. Allowing time to receive and consider names and then approach the individuals concerned, the aim would be to have the Body established by the end of October.
4. However we agreed that it would be important to announce the Chair at least at the Press launch on the 28th September to demonstrate that proper arrangements are being put in place to manage the

debate. Those wishing to make submissions would therefore be able to do so immediately, to a named chair and to named accommodation (which has been secured in Adelaide Street in Belfast).

5. Mr Gerry Burns has already agreed to serve on the Body and would make a good Chair. Mr Burns is the former Ombudsman, which will inspire confidence in his impartiality and fairness, and was formerly Clerk of Fermanagh District Council. He will therefore also bring a local Government and rural (ie non-Belfast/North Down) perspective to the discussions. Mr Burns is also retired and will be able to devote the necessary time to the work of the Body, which will be important if it is to address this complex issue successfully. While he is a member of the Acute Hospital Services Review Group this does not entail a large time commitment.

6. The draft paper names Mr Burns as chair but this can be amended if the Minister has someone else in mind who is willing to serve.

7. The Terms of Reference have been amended to include references to the implications for FE, HE and training (as suggested by Dr Farren) and the impact on the economy (suggested by Sir Reg Empey).



MARK BROWNE (DR)

☎ 59338

cc Secretary
Mr Peover

MEMORANDUM EC (00)

From: Martin McGuinness
Minister for Education

Date: September 2000

To: Executive Committee

MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE REVIEW BODY ON SELECTION

Background

1. The research report on the effects of the selective system of secondary education will be launched on the 28th September and will act as a catalyst for a widespread public debate on the nature of future arrangements for post-primary education.
2. My previous paper to the Executive Committee [Memorandum EC(00) 98] set out the proposed arrangements for handling this initial process of public discussion and consultation through the establishment of an independent Review Body which would manage the debate and undertake the key task of distilling firm proposals or options for future policy. These would in turn be subject to further discussion and, if appropriate, consultation before final decisions are made.

Composition of the Review Body

3. It will be critical to ensure that the composition of the Review Body is such as to:
 - inspire public confidence in the independence and objectivity of the Body and the impartiality of the policy options identified

- bring to bear appropriate experience and expertise from across the full range of relevant perspectives
 - include members with sufficient time to devote to consideration of this important and complex issue.
4. It is proposed that the Review Body is established and supported as follows:
- a small but dynamic **Review Body** of 6-8 individuals. These individuals, representing local education and business interests, should have sufficient professionalism, relevant experience, integrity and independence to enable them to come to a view but the Review Body itself should not have representatives of various individual lobby groups or sectoral interests.
 - up to 4 **Professional Advisers**. One each from Scotland, England and the Republic of Ireland along with a local adviser. This should be **Professor Tony Gallagher**, from Queen's University, who led the selection research project
 - an **Education Consultative Forum**. This group could consist of representatives from each of the sectoral interests eg, the Teachers Unions, the GBA, CCMS, the Boards, the Integrated sector and Irish-medium sector. This Education Consultative Forum could be up to approximately 12 strong and would provide both a source of advice and a sounding board for ideas. The Consultative Forum could meet on a regular basis with the Review Body for the mutual benefit of both and would help to ensure that our education partners feel they are fully involved in the process.

Membership of the Review Body

5. I am grateful to colleagues for their suggestions for membership of the Review Body. I consider it important that members of the Education Committee should also have the opportunity to put forward names and propose to consult with them before finalising the

membership. This will be undertaken after the launch of the research at the end of September and the aim is to have the process completed, and the full Review Body established, before the end of October.

6. The establishment of the Review Body, and the arrangements for taking forward the debate, will be made public at the launch of the research on the 28th September. At that point I will also wish to announce the chair of the Body who will be Mr Gerry Burns, the former Ombudsman and previously the clerk of Fermanagh District Council. He will bring to this post the necessary objectivity, impartiality and experience to inspire public confidence and meet the challenging task set out in the Terms of Reference.

Terms of Reference for the Review Body

7. The Body will be mandated to conduct widespread consultation and make recommendations on the future arrangements for post-primary education including consideration of all the relevant and important issues such as the age at which transition is made, the method by which pupils make the transition, the curriculum or curricula to be followed, the proposed arrangements for post-primary organisation (including structures), the implications for further education, higher education, training and the economy and the associated costs. The proposed terms of reference have been expanded to incorporate suggestions made by colleagues and are attached as an Appendix.

Timescale for the Review

8. This is a very major task and the Review Body will need sufficient time to conduct detailed consultation, consider and test out ideas and formulate recommendations. It is anticipated that a final report will be produced by around end May. The timescale will depend to a considerable degree on the time which the members can commit to this task and will have to be discussed and agreed, along with the Terms of Reference, with the Chair before being finalised.

*Is this still
mainly with
our staff?
May be
September.*

Recommendation

9. The Executive Committee is invited to note that
 - i. the chair of the Review Body on Post-primary Arrangements will be Mr Gerry Burns and this will be announced at the launch of the research report on the 28th September.
 - ii. the remaining membership will be finalised after consultation with the Education Committee and announced before the end of October.
 - iii. The Terms of Reference will be as attached, subject to discussion with the Chair.

Martin McGuinness

September 2000

*REVIEW BODY TO REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR POST-PRIMARY
EDUCATION*

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

“To consider research and other relevant information on the impact of Selection on pupils, parents, teachers, the economy and society and undertake widespread consultation in order to:

- identify and consider key issues arising from the current Selective system of post-primary education;
- assess the extent to which the current arrangements for post-primary education meet the needs and aspirations of children and their parents and the requirements of the economy and society; and
- report to the Minister of Education its conclusions and recommendations on the future arrangements ^{for} of post-primary education and address specifically: X
 - i. the age at which ^{initial} transfer to post-primary education ^{and any subsequent transfer} should occur; X
 - ii. the administrative arrangements for transfer;
 - iii. the implications for the curriculum at primary and post-primary levels;
 - iv. the implications for current school structures;
 - v. the implications for further and higher education and training;
 - vi. the anticipated impact ^(positive and negative) of any proposed new arrangements X
on the economy;
 - v. the costs of any revised arrangements; and
 - vi. the timing and phasing of any new proposed arrangements.