

**From the Minister of Finance**

*Peter Weir MLA  
Minister of Education*

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Dear Peter

**DE DRAFT EXECUTIVE PAPER VERSION 1: SCHOOL RETURN – THE NEXT STEPS**

Thank you for your draft Executive Paper of 8<sup>th</sup> March in relation to potential next steps for the return of schools here in the North.

I note the three recommendations outlined in your paper, and am of course acutely aware of the importance of our children returning to classroom learning.

However, our approach should continue to be guided by the advice of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) on the safe re-opening of our schools. You have sought comments on the draft paper and I would therefore ask that the views of the CMO and CSA on your proposals be presented to Executive colleagues for consideration.

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**CONOR MURPHY MLA  
MINISTER OF FINANCE**