DRAFT WITNESS STATEMENT OF NICCY MODULE 2C UK COVID INQUIRY

Certificate of Exhibit KY/23 - INQ

Contact: Meeting via Zoom with DE Minister

PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

DATE: 7 MAY 2020

NICCY:	Koulla Yiasouma - Commssioner Mairead McCafferty - Chief Executive
	Peter Weir - Minister
Dept of Education:	Peter Martin - SpAd
	Name Redacted Inclusion & Wellbeing Directorate

1	ssues Ado	Action	
C	oVid-19 F	Response	
•	Discussion had re this and education 'temp' modif's'; noted DoH		
	taking a	dvice from us re' renewal of their notices; highlighted weekly	
	reports f	rom EA – R. Irwin leading on this; FSME.	
	Return to	o Schools:	
	0	balance important / health and safety;	-
	0	remote learning issues and access to IT for pupils;	
	0	DE/EA 'digital kit' for CYP - C2K issue (conversion re	
		home working has been resolved); 8k lacking kits – to press on re this;	
	0	different approaches from different schools;	
	0	continuity important;	
	0	ETI used;	
	0	Vulnerable children in school;	
	0	In touch with other jurisdictions / similar prob's;	
	0	CMO - informing on threat level of this;	
	0	PPE and practicalities – fear factor mainly – SEN Schools particularly.	
	0	Staged and phased approach necessary.	
	Press Co	nference with Minister & others for CYP raised: PW agreed le'.	DE
-	Survey in	collaboration with NICCY on CYP's experiences of Covid19	
	lockdown	raised: quoted Wales e.g PW to consider this.	DE
E	N Review		
LTL Action Plan to be progressed / led by DE. Timeframe information:			DE
0	be got for u	Pages 422.27	



SEND Framework	
 Consultation delayed again – autumn time / Sept prob re' consultation. 	
 PW reg'd £74m and received £60m - £44m of which is recurrent 	
costs. He will probably use part of a £10m alloc' for autism training.	
Emotional Health & Wellbeing Framework	
We did not get to this.	
Counselling Provision in Schools	
We did not get to this.	
Independent Review of Education [NDNA]	
 Some financial allocation to start this in year; 	
To consult on ToR;	NICCY
NICCY will inform these.	
Education Transformation Project	1.7 C1 3.
 'stalled' somewhat however, we said we'd get update from relevant 	Company No. of
Officials as per their periodic updates to us.	NICCY
Anti-Bullying Act Implementation of Guidance	
 Discussed need to implement following Unions' cessation of industrial action; 	
 We would like to see this actioned asap – DE update us. 	DE
NB: Noelle Buick Chief Inspector had retired.	
Schools' Budgets	
• £226m got;	
 Total of £103m costs - £35m in 'pot' so got £68m iro Industrial Action 	
resolution – so £68m is recurrent;	
 £15m of the 68m was part of the back pay settlement. 	
ADDITIONAL:	

RSE / CEDAW Rec:



•	Following the recommendation from the UN Committee and recent legislation re' abortion: DE responsible for changes to the RSE curriculum;	
•	PW said he would be taking legal advice re this; NICCY to write formally to him on this.	NICCY
CI	hildren's & Young People's Strategy: PW informed this has been signed off and is ready to go to the Executive; few minor tweaks e.g. years covered, reference to ACES	
•	mentioned; To follow up.	NICCY
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