



# TransformED NI

**Transforming Teaching and Learning:  
A Strategy for Educational Excellence in  
Northern Ireland**



Department of  
**Education**





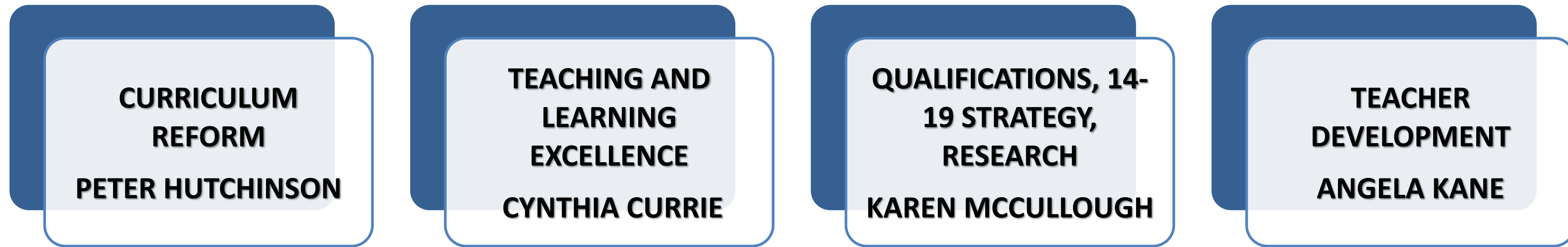
**Suzanne Kingon**

**Deputy Permanent Secretary  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**EVERY LEARNER | EVERY SCHOOL | EVERY CHANCE**



# THE TRANSFORMED TEAM



# WHY IS A NEW STRATEGY NEEDED?

***‘Based on clear evidence into what influences outcomes, successful school systems ground changes in the classroom, focusing first and foremost on teachers and the content they deliver’***

**McKinsey and Company, Spark and Sustain Report  
(February, 2024)**

# HOW IS NORTHERN IRELAND PERFORMING?

- **Improving qualification outcomes for school leavers.**
- **Primary school pupils performing well above international average in literacy and numeracy.**
- **Highly-qualified teaching workforce.**

## **BUT:**

- **No national measures of school or system performance at primary or Key Stage 3.**
- **Significant variation in pupil outcomes between schools of similar characteristics at GCSE and A Level.**

# HOW IS NORTHERN IRELAND PERFORMING?

- **Disadvantage gap only closing very slowly.**
- **Inspection fundamentally disrupted by ASOS.**
- **Increased uptake of equivalent qualifications – not all providing sound progression.**
- **PISA outcomes stagnating over last decade – average in science and mathematics and below England and Republic of Ireland.**

## OUR VISION

***A coherent,  
high-performing  
education system  
focused on excellence  
and equity for all***

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## 1. EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY FOR ALL

Raising aspirations and outcomes for every learner; stretching the most able whilst supporting those who need it most; targeted interventions to close the attainment gap; promoting a culture where excellence is inclusive.

## 2. LEARNING FROM GLOBAL BEST PRACTICE

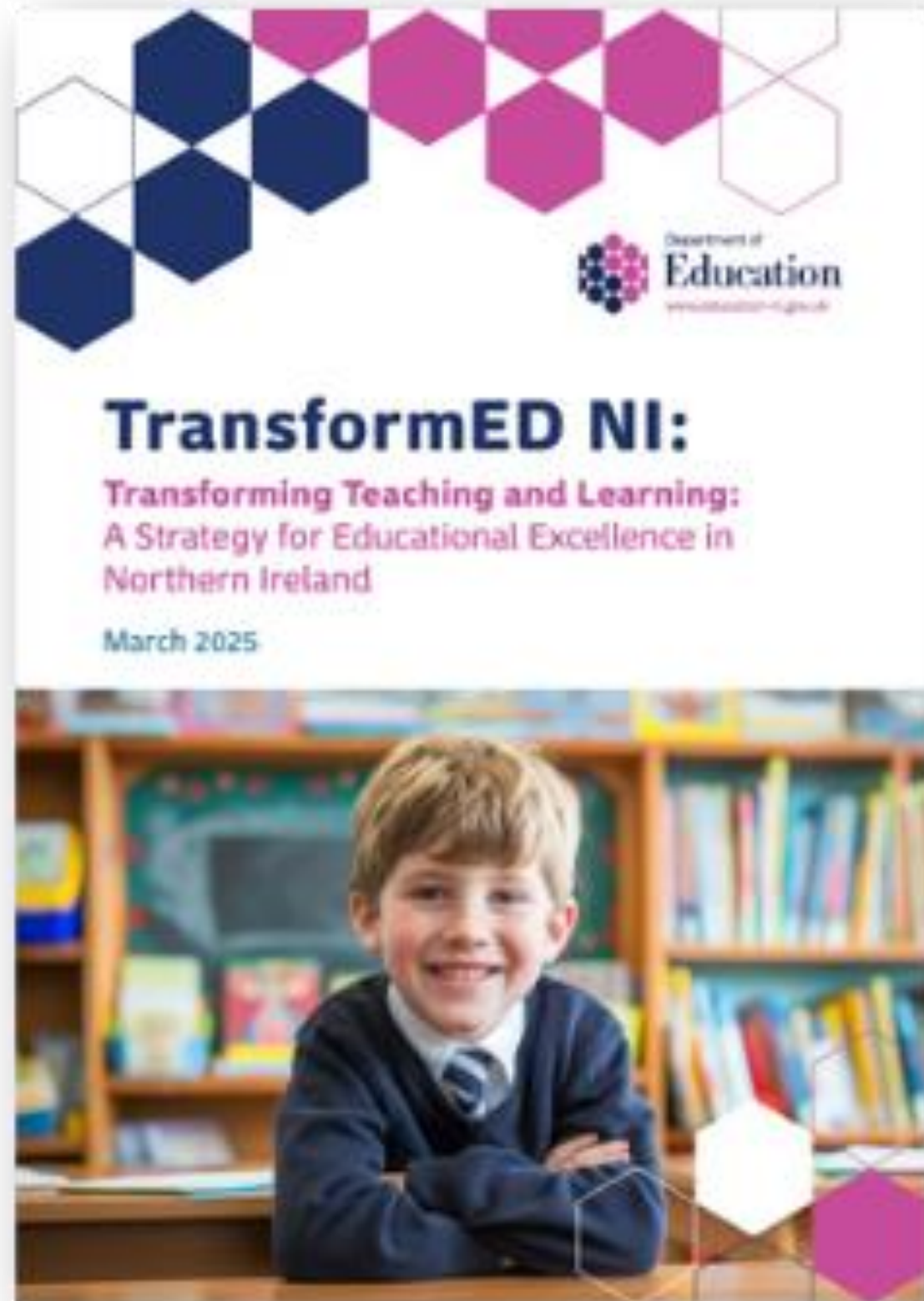
International benchmarking, research informed approaches, drawing insights from high-performing education systems and embedding a culture of continuous evaluation.

## 3. SYSTEM COHERENCE AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Whole system transformation meaning reduced fragmentation; joined up thinking and fewer overlapping initiatives; a unified strategic framework that reduces duplication.

## 4. EMPOWERING EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

High-quality professional development for teachers at every stage of their career; leadership development that builds capacity and confidence; trusting, supporting and enabling educators to lead change.



# Ten point plan for Educational Excellence in Northern Ireland





# Key Areas of Focus



# TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

**Teacher Professional Learning Fund**

**Expanded induction for early career teachers**

**Making Best Practice, Common Practice**

**Science of Learning Programme**

**Revised professional learning strategy**

**Qualification for headship / Programme for experienced Principals**

**A coherent approach to supporting teachers and leaders across their career**

**ALL REFORMS ARE UNDERPINNED BY TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

# CURRICULUM

**Strategic  
Review of  
Curriculum**



**Department  
Response to  
Curriculum  
Review**



**Curriculum  
Taskforce chaired  
by Christine  
Counsell**



**New  
literacy and  
numeracy  
strategies**




**New  
Curriculum  
Framework**




**Every child enjoys a knowledge  
rich curriculum, with investment in  
high-quality curriculum advice and  
resources**


# ASSESSMENT

 **System level  
sample assessment  
for pupils aged 8, 11  
and 14**

 **Independent  
review of  
Statutory  
Assessment**

 **New system  
level performance  
measures**

 **Investment in  
CCEA Computer  
Adaptive  
Assessment**

 **Call for  
evidence and  
teacher  
survey**

**Supporting learning and  
promoting high standards  
and reliable system level data**

# Qualifications

**Consultation**  
on qualifications  
policy  
framework

**Reduction**  
in controlled  
assessment


**New Northern  
Ireland Diploma  
of Education**

**Reduced**  
content and  
fewer exams

**Revised**  
GCSE and  
A-Level  
specifications


**Portable, progressive and fit for  
purpose qualifications**

# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

  
**New  
school  
improvement  
policy**

  
**Legislation  
to safeguard  
school  
inspection**

  
**Revised  
model of  
school  
support**

  
**New  
accountability  
framework for  
education**

  
**Independent  
review of  
accountability  
arrangements**

**A new framework to support  
excellence and provide  
enhanced external support**

# TACKLING DISADVANTAGE

**RAISE**  
**locality plans**

**RAISE**  
**cross-cutting  
projects**

**Review**  
**of funding  
targeted at  
disadvantage**

**All learners  
to remain in  
education  
until age 18**

**Targeted  
literacy and  
numeracy  
programmes**

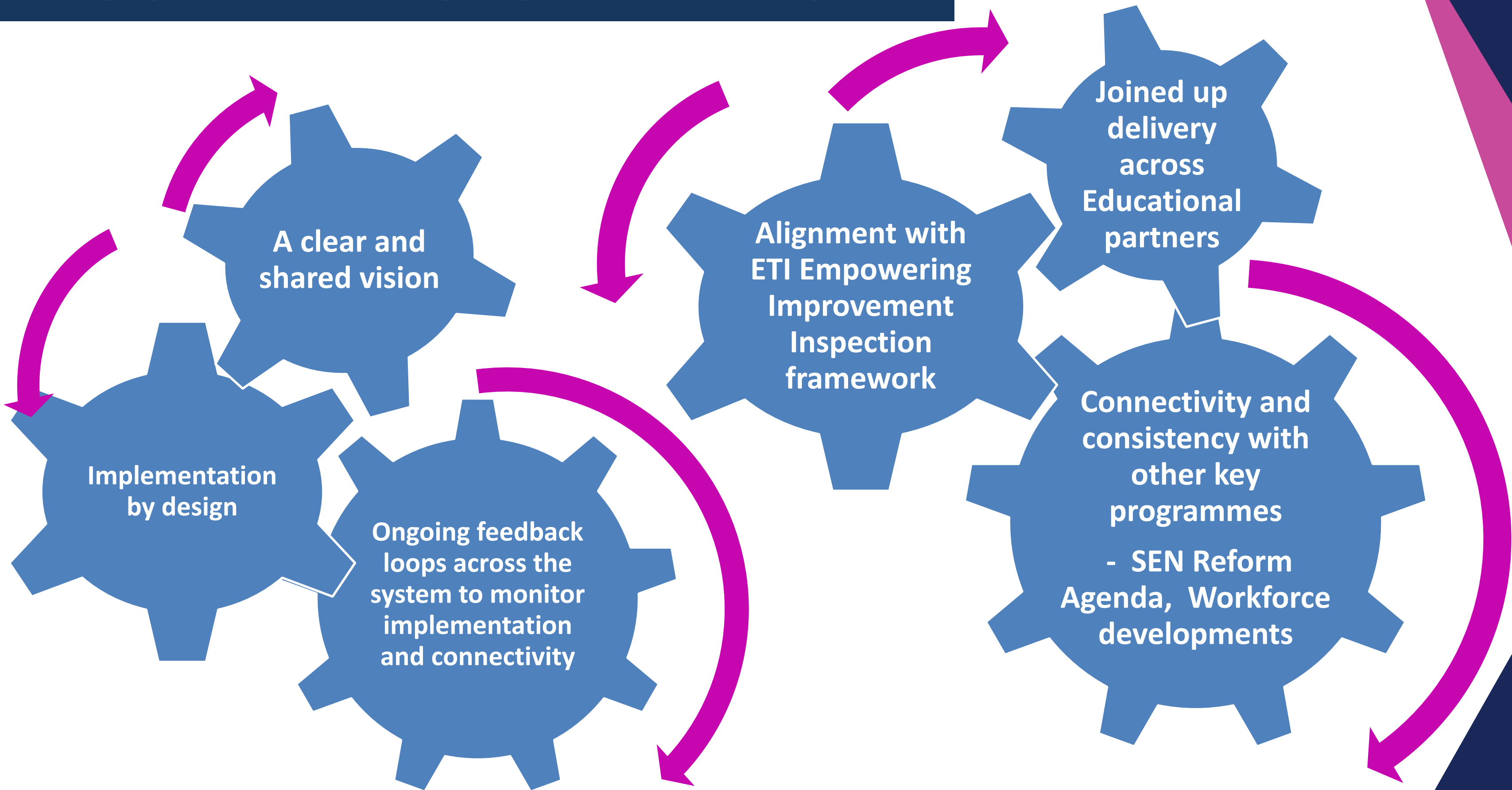
**An integrated approach  
providing a continuum of  
evidenced-based interventions**



# Managing Change Together...



# COHERENT SYSTEM REFORM



# WORKING TOGETHER

**Clear  
roadmap for  
implementation**

**Quarterly  
Newsletters**

**DE website  
and LinkedIn /  
social media**

**Workshops  
and  
conferences**

**Working groups; Calls for  
evidence; Consultations;  
Surveys; Feedback; Evaluation**



**WE WANT TO  
HEAR YOUR  
FEEDBACK!**



# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

