

## Meeting with DE & EA

### Special School Summer Scheme Provision

Monday 23 February 2026

#### Attendees:

Clar McKenna (EA)  
Tomas Adell (EA)  
Deirdre Ward (DE)

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██████████

#### Apologies:

None

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Outline of Issues</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Deirdre Ward (DW) welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the issue asking everyone if they agreed that it is not possible or safe to deliver Special School Summer Scheme provision in 2026 due to the high risk given that the schemes involve the children with the most needs and vulnerabilities. All agreed.</li></ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Next Steps &amp; Timings</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tomas Adell (TA) agreed to send a letter from his service to Special School Principals with the core messages and which asks them to also share with parents and staff.</li><li>TA advised that the letter would likely be issued on Wednesday and agreed to advise DE in advance of the letter being issued.</li><li>DW suggested that lines on Special School summer schemes are included in a letter to the Minister of Health which is being drafted by ██████████, DE.</li><li>TA agreed to speak to the DoH Permanent Secretary to discuss the best approach in informing the DoH Minister about Special School Summer Schemes.</li><li>██████████ will draft Lines to Take for DE and will seek review from the DE Communications Team. CMcK, ██████████ will draft Lines to Take for EA. ██████████ CMcK, ██████████ and ██████████ will meet in advance of the letter being issued to agree lines to take.</li></ul>	<p><b>This was subsequently changed to Thursday 26 /Friday 27 February.</b></p>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Future Years</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DW asked about the approach for future years and if a sustainable model would be developed by 2027.</li> <li>• TA advised that for a model to be developed the health care aspect would need to be addressed and the policy intent known i.e. would any future provision have educational outcomes or would it be focussed on respite and recreation.</li> <li>• TA noted that a policy steer from DE would be required.</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Closing</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DW thanked everyone for attending.</li> </ul>	