

**DE/2026-045 – Freedom of Information Request**

**Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I wish to request the following information:

1. Whether the Department has carried out, commissioned, or received any formal evaluation of the effectiveness or outcomes of the *Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools* (SPiMS) programme since its inception.
2. If any such evaluation has been carried out, please provide a copy of the evaluation report or reports, together with any summary findings or recommendations arising from them.
3. If no formal evaluation has been carried out, please confirm this and provide any recorded explanation or rationale for the decision not to evaluate the programme.

**Department Response:**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Evaluation of the Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools (SPiMS) Programme. The request was received on 22 March 2026. I will respond to each of your questions separately below.

- 1. Whether the Department has carried out, commissioned, or received any formal evaluation of the effectiveness or outcomes of the *Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools* (SPiMS) programme since its inception.**

The Education Training Inspectorate (ETI) published a report on Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools Part 1 on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024. A copy can be found at [Specialist Provisions in Mainstream Schools - Part 1 | Education and Training Inspectorate - Empowering Improvement](#) and this is publicly available. Part 2 of the report has been commissioned but has not yet been published. It is expected to be published very soon.

The department has also received a copy of the NICCY report entitled 'Every child's right to inclusive education – Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools Briefing Report'. This is publicly available [here](#).

- 2. If any such evaluation has been carried out, please provide a copy of the evaluation report or reports, together with any summary findings or recommendations arising from them.**

I can confirm that the Department holds the information requested. The link to the report on the ETI website has been provided in the response to question 1 above. The link to the NICCY report has also been provided in the response to question 1 above.

**3. If no formal evaluation has been carried out, please confirm this and provide any recorded explanation or rationale for the decision not to evaluate the programme.**

This is not applicable as the ETI have carried out a formal evaluation as outlined above in the responses to question 1 and question 2.