

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DE BOARD REGISTER – GIFTS & HOSPITALITY

1 APRIL 2025 TO 31 MARCH 2026

Name: Ronnie Armour (until 31 January 2026)					DE Board Member				Year: 2025/26		
Date of Event or Gift Offered	Offered to	Ultimate recipient (if different)	Offered From	Description of Offer	Reason for Offer	Details of Contracts - current or potential	Est. / actual value of offer £	Action Taken i.e. Accepted / Declined / Returned	Entered by	Entered Date	File Ref:

NOTE: Permanent Secretary's Gifts & Hospitality now published on [OpenDataNI.portal](#) (Search for - NICS Permanent Secretaries Gifts & Hospitality)

Name: David Malcolm (from 9 February 2026)					DE Board Member				Year: 2025/26		
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Name: Paul Brush (TP Dep Sec on 16/6/25)					DE Board Member				Year: 2025/26		
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11.9.25	Paul Brush	Oliver McKearney	Stranmillis University College	Buffet Lunch	Early Years Seminar		£20	Declined	CMcKee	3.9.25	ED1/25/206486 & 207281
16.9.25	Linsey Farrell (already left DE so redirected to Paul Brush)	Paul Brush	Belfast City Council	Refreshments	Belfast Inclusive Futures Seminar on Digital Technologies/AI		£20	Declined	CMcKee	28.8.25	ED1/25/202234 & 202295
18.9.25	Linsey Farrell (already left DE so redirected to Paul Brush)	Paul Brush	Bangor Grammar School	Buffet Lunch	Senior Prize Distribution		£20	Declined	CMcKee	28.8.25	ED1/25/216801
19.9.25	Linsey Farrell (already left DE so redirected to Paul Brush)	Paul Brush	SERC	Refreshments	Graduation Ceremony		£20	Declined	CMcKee	29.8.25	ED1/25/203427 & 203428
14.10.25	Paul Brush		Booktrust	Afternoon Tea	Booktrust Centenary Celebration		£20	Accepted	CMcKee	9.9.25	ED1/25/212547 & 212545
6.11.25	Paul Brush	Christine Leacock	Altram	Refreshments	Launch of Communications Board		£20	Declined	CMcKee	11.9.25	ED1/25/214673 & 214675
20.11.25	Paul Brush		Playboard	Buffet Lunch & Refreshments	40th Anniversary Celebration Conference		£40	Declined	CMcKee	10.11.25	ED1/25/268019

24.11.25	Paul Brush		Children's Law Commission	Buffet Lunch & Refreshments	From Promise to Practice: Realising the Vision of the Children's Services Cooperation Act		£40	Declined	CMcKee	10.11.25	ED1/25/268031
4.2.26	Paul Brush		South Belfast Sure Start	Refreshments	25 th Celebration of South Belfast Sure Start		£20	Declined	CMcKee	15.1.26	ED1/26/10763
26.2.26	Paul Brush		ESRI	Refreshments	The long-term outcomes of school absence		£20	Declined	CMcKee	12.2.26	ED1/26/36468 & 36473
27.2.26	Paul Brush		Children's Books Ireland	Refreshments	Lecture on Rediscovering the joy of children's books		£20	Declined	CMcKee	4.2.26	ED1/26/27952 & 27996
6.3.26	Paul Brush		NI Youth Forum	Refreshments	Welcome to Your Voice Week 2026 – Policy Panel		£20	Declined	CMcKee	5.2.26	ED1/26/29369 & 29375 & 41714

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Name: Linsey Farrell					DE Board Member				Year: 2025/26		
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7.4.25	Linsey Farrell		Springboard Opportunities Ltd	Casual Lunch	Wall2Wall Event		25.00	Declined	CMcKee		ED1/25/51455
10.4.25	Linsey Farrell		Longstone School	Refreshments	Technology & Design: Community In Practice Competition 2025		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/75254
10-11.4.25	Linsey Farrell		UTU	Refreshments & Lunch	UTU Annual Conference		60.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/53591
28.4.25	Linsey Farrell		Hon Consul for Hungary and Buddy Bear Trust	Refreshments	Presentation of Award		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/88928
30.4.25	Linsey Farrell		Children's Law Commission	Refreshments	Annual Lecture 2025		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/76122
2.5.25	Linsey Farrell		The Ulster Orchestra	Casual Lunch	SOUND LINKS celebration with Ulster Orchestra		25.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/105632
6.5.25	Linsey Farrell		RCSLT	Casual Lunch	Launch of Language Launchpad		25.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/53593
6.5.25	Linsey Farrell		Stranmillis College	Refreshments	80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE80)		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/84433 & 84446
8.5.25	Linsey Farrell		Belfast Unemployed Resource Ctr	Casual Lunch	Advanced Manufacturing: Pathways School Project		25.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/88920
8.5.25	Linsey Farrell		Ardoyne Youth Enterprise	Refreshments	North Belfast Youth Conference		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/107503 & 107506

9.5.25	Linsey Farrell		Fane Street Primary School	Casual Lunch	ATTSA Award		25.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/88923
16-20.5.25	Linsey Farrell		Goethe-Institut London	All expenses	Information trip to Berlin for decision makers		1,000	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/84412 & 84416
27.5.25	Linsey Farrell		Apple Inc	Dinner	Education Leaders Dinner		40.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/105633
28.5.25	Linsey Farrell	Claire McClelland	The Open University	Refreshments	Research report launch: Learnings from 'Why Riot?': Addressing the whys beneath youth violence		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/95362 & 95379 & 95439 & 95441
18.6.25	Linsey Farrell		Colin Neighborhood Partnership	Refreshments	20 Years Celebration		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/100688
23.6.25	Linsey Farrell		SEN Reform NI	Refreshments	Equity in Education: Early Years through Post 19 - Caleb's Cause NI and SEN Reform NI		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/102269
23 & 24.5.25	Linsey Farrell		Glenveagh Special School	Refreshments	The Greatest Showman		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/114078
25.5.25	Linsey Farrell		Ulster University	Refreshments	Strategic Policy Overview for the Adoption of Artificial Intelligence in Northern Ireland		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/112896
27.5.25	Linsey Farrell		NICIE	Refreshments	Launch of Faith and Belief in School		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/114120
11.6.25	Linsey Farrell		Crescendo	Refreshments	Crescendo Project Final Event		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/122254
13.6.25	Linsey Farrell		CEF	Refreshments	TL Graduation		20.00	Declined	C McKee	15.5.25	ED1/25/117449 & 117523
18.6.25	Linsey Farrell		Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	Refreshments	20 th Anniversary Event		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/122260

25.6.25	Linsey Farrell		Education Network NI Forum	Refreshments	ICT Excellence Awards		20.00	Declined	C McKee		ED1/25/122257
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LINSEY FARRELL CLEARED AND APPROVED HER G&H RETURN FROM 1.4.25 TO 16.6.25 ON 12.6.25 (ED1/25/146142 and 146136)

Name: Heather Cousins					DE Board Member				Year: 2025/26		
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24.6.25	Heather Cousins		Queen's University of Belfast	Refreshments & Dinner	Honorary Graduation Ceremony		60.00	Declined	M White	30.5.25	ED1/25/132970
30.9.25	Heather Cousins		Comhairle Na Gaelscolaíochta	Refreshments & Lunch	Research Launch		25.00	Declined	M White	2.7.25	ED1/25/164927
21.11.25	Heather Cousins		Board of Governors Ardnashee School & College	Refreshments	Official Opening of new Northland Road Academy		20.00	Declined	M White	29.10.25	ED1/25/257800
25.11.25	Heather Cousins		Angel Eyes NI	Refreshments	Launch of Education Access in Ireland Report		20.00	Declined	M White	11.11.25	ED1/25/268434
24.2.26	Heather Cousins		Innovation City Belfast	Refreshments	Seminar - Belfast Inclusive Innovation Series		20.00	Accepted	M White	17.12.25	ED1/25/302401
20.3.26	Heather Cousins		Ulster Teachers' Union	Refreshments & Lunch	Conference & Lunch		60.00	Declined	M White	2.2.26	ED1/26/25387
27.3.26	Heather Cousins		Children's Books Ireland	Refreshments	Lecture on Rediscovering the joy of children's books		20.00	Declined	M White	6.2.26	ED1/26/30915

Name: Neil Palmer					DE Board Member				Year: 2025/26		
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19 Aug 2025	Neil Palmer		NI Fiscal Council	Conference	Annual Conference – 12 September 2025		£20	Declined 4/9/25 - Janet	J Scott	19 Aug	ED1/25/208232
20 Nov 2025	Neil Palmer		Gov Finance GovFinance@hmtreasury.gov.uk	Roadshow	GFF Regional Roadshow - Northern Ireland - 21 January @ Europa Hotel		£40	Accepted 20/11/25 Janet	J Scott	25 Nov 16/1/26	ED1/25/283540 ED1/26/13906

Name: Faustina Graham					DE Board Member				Year: 2025/26		
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11/04/25	F Graham	B O'Rourke	Lindsay Osbourne	UTU Conference 2025	Attendance		£25	Declined	CM	11/4/25	ED1/25/89233
11/04/25	F Graham		Emily Thornton	Aspire Peace Plus Programme	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	11/04/25	ED1/25/91327
28/04/25	F Graham	J Kennedy	Liz Coyle, Economic & Social Research Institute	Research on a Shared Island Conference	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	29/04/25	ED1/25/87602
28/04/25	F Graham	C Galway	Brendan McConville, Buddy Bear	Presentation by the Hungarian Ambassador	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	29/04/25	ED1/25/98860
30/4/25	F Graham	J McCusker	Dolores McMahon, ROI	Invite to Literacy, Numeracy & Digital Literacy Forum 2025	Attendance		£25	Declined	CM	30/4/25	ED1/25/98149
20/05/25	F Graham	C Galway	Seamus O'Gorman, Children in Crossfire	Shared Island Shared World Shared Future – Building Cross-Border GCE partnerships	Attendance		£25	Declined	CM	20/05/25	ED1/25/116704
22/05/25	F Graham	J Kennedy	Judith Barfoot, NIPS Hydebank	HBW - 10th Anniversary of becoming a Secure College	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	22/05/25	ED1/25/121907
10/06/25	F Graham	J Kennedy	Neil Shaw, British Council	UK TVET Policy Seminar networking reception	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	10/06/25	ED1/25/114145
13/06/25	F Graham		Jane McDowell, Chief Executives Forum	Transformation Leadership Graduation	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	19/06/25	ED1/25/119572
19/06/25	F Graham		Anne Dickson, Chief Executives Forum	Lunch to mark the departure of David Sterling as CEF Chair	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	19/06/25	ED1/25/119571

20/06/25	F Graham		Christine McDonnell, INTO	Vere Foster Lecture 2025	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	20/06/25	ED1/25/140081
30/09/25	F Graham	S Fearon	Maria Thomasson, CNAG	Research Launch: Comhairle Na Gaelscolaíochta	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	30/09/25	ED1/25/181213
08/10/25	F Graham	J Kennedy	Northern Regional College	Official Opening of Ballymena Campus	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	08/10/25	ED1/25/229648
17/10/25	F Graham		Martin Brown, Dublin City University	SYMPOSIUM: LEARNING ANALYTICS AS A CATALYST FOR EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT EVIDENCE FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	17/10/25	ED1/25/244796
22/10/25	F Graham		CEF	A PWC Private Breakfast Briefing	Attendance		£20	Accepted	CM	22/10/25	ED1/25/244635
11/11/25	F Graham	N Byrne	CCMS	CCMS Leadership Conference	Attendance		£25	Declined	CM	11/11/25	ED1/25/261297
20/11/25	F Graham		Kevin Holly, EA	Official Opening Ceremony Little Oaks EOTAS	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	20/11/25	ED1/25/262078
21 & 22/11/25	F Graham		INTO	Education Conference	Attendance		£100	Declined	CM	21/11/25	ED1/25/242389 ED1/25/235473
21/11/25	F Graham	B O'Rourke	ASCL	ASCL Northern Ireland Annual Conference 2025	Presenting		£25	Declined	CM	21/11/25	ED1/25/254461
21/11/25	F Graham	S O'Boyle	Raymond McFeeters	Ardnashee School & College Official Opening	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	21/22/25	ED1/25/256272
11/12/25	F Graham	S McKenna	Anne Dickson CEF	Invitation to CEF's Annual Lunch - Thursday 11th December - AC Marriott Hotel, Belfast	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	11/12/25	ED1/25/298193
11/12/25	F Graham	N Byrne	Paul Close EA - EA Controlled Schools Unit	LEAD 10 Event	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	11/12/25	ED1/25/282643

29/1/26	F Graham	J McCusker	Prof Heggarty	Teachers as Writers: Showcase and Celebration Invitations	Attendance		£20	Declined	CM	5/3/26	ED1/26/7863
29/1/26	F Graham	S McKenna	Michael McAuley	ASCL NI Policy Forum	Attendance		£25	Declined	CM	5/3/26	ED1/26/9064
28/2/26 & 01/03/26	F Graham	C Stafford	Anne-Marie Poynor	Five Nations Network Annual Conference - Belfast	Attendance		£40	Declined	CM	28/2/26	ED1/25/279263
05/03/26	F Graham		DfE Skills & Education Groups Annual Showcase Conference	DfE Conference, Corick House Hotel	Attendance & Presenting		£25	Accepted	CM	5/3/26	ED1/26/52177
06/03/26	F Graham	N Byrne	Mark McTaggart	INTO Northern Conference 2026	Attendance		£40	Declined	CM	5/3/26	ED1/26/21722
14/3/26	F Graham		NASUWT	NASUWT Northern Ireland Annual Conference 14 March 2026	Attendance		£40	Declined	CM	5/3/26	ED1/26/21696

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