

MEETING WITH CARMEL HANNA – 30 April 2002

Carmel Hanna
Robson Davison
Catherine Bell
John Donaghy
Linda Meldrum

Minister
Gerry McGinn
Aidan McAteer
Mark Browne
Leslie Ashe
Des Whyte
Conor McParland

Carmel Hanna

- Burns will have repercussions for DEL
- Want to see end of academic selection
- FE sector not held in high esteem
- DE and DEL need to work closely together at Ministerial/official level on 14-19 curriculum
- Need co-operation rather than competition between schools and FE. FE can in many instances provide better post-16 options than schools

Robson Davison

- Post-14 provision needs careful consideration. Real choice needed at 14 rather than 11.
- Current mismatch between skills/qualifications coming out of higher education and the needs of the economy

Catherine Bell

- Vocational education is not the easy option. Knowledge content is as high as academic subjects
- All pupils should be given an insight into vocational provision at 14
- Opportunities to pilot joint FE/6th form provision
- Too much retraining currently required for general graduates. Needs of the economy could be better met if greater numbers started work at 18 and continued with part-time further education

General

- The two departments will continue to liaise closely
- FE principals will shortly enter the debate in the press. Initial articles will explain the benefits of vocational education
- DEL will consider how the wider business community can be stimulated to respond