

Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector – Advisory Group inviting written responses by 1 December 2011 to their reflections as outlined at the public working session of 17 November 2011

The Advisory Group to the Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector held its final public working session on 17 November 2011 in the Department of Education and Skills in Dublin.

Since the launch of the Forum on 19 April 2011, almost 220 written submissions on patronage and pluralism in the primary sector have been received and a three day public session of the Forum was held in late June.

The Advisory Group, which consists of Professor John Coolahan, Dr. Caroline Hussey and Fionnuala Kilfeather, has analysed and evaluated a significant amount of data including the submissions received and research and practices on patronage and pluralism in schools in other countries. They have also consulted with eighty one primary and post primary school students.

The purpose of the final public working session was to allow the Advisory Group the opportunity to share their reflections with the main stakeholders, including officials from the Department of Education and Skills, interested bodies and representatives from the general public. Following its consideration of the views expressed in response to the presentation, the Advisory Group will prepare its report for the Minister before the end of December 2011.

At the 17 November event, Professor Coolahan, as chair of the Advisory Group, made a presentation outlining the Groups reflections. This presentation can be accessed from the Forum webpage of the Department of Education and Skills website under the title “17 November 2011 - Presentation by Professor Coolahan (Chair), Forum Advisory Group”. The working session was broadcast live from the Forum webpage. Recordings of the session can be viewed from the Forum webpage under the title “Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector Working Session 17 November 2011”.

The link to the Forum webpage is as follows:

<http://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Conferences/Patronage-and-Pluralism-in-the-Primary-Sector/>

The Advisory Group has invited written responses to their reflections by Thursday, 1 December 2011.

Responses may be e-mailed to: patronageforum@education.gov.ie or can be forwarded to:

Breda Naughton

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