

Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector Working Session 17 November 2011

On 19 April 2011, the Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn T.D., launched the Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector.

At the Forum launch, the Minister invited written submissions from interested parties, including members of the public, by 7 June 2011, on a number of specific themes:

- Establishing parental and community demand for diversity
- Managing the transfer / divesting of patronage
- Diversity within a school or small number of schools in a locality.

An Advisory Group, chaired by Professor John Coolahan, was appointed by Minister Quinn to receive and assess the various views and perspectives submitted and to provide him with policy advice within the Terms of Reference of the Forum.

Almost 220 written submissions were received and these are being examined by the Advisory Group. The Group held a three day working session of the Forum on 22, 23 and 24 June. At this session, the Advisory Group discussed and examined issues arising from the submissions of thirteen key groups and of the Department of Education and Skills.

Professor John Coolahan, in his address at the end of the June working session, announced that the Group would hold a public session on 17 November. He will make an oral presentation of the Group's reflections and draft policy options. Subsequent to this November working session and following further reflections, the Advisory Group will prepare its report which will be submitted to the Minister by the end of the year.

This final public session of the Advisory Group will take place on 17 November in the Clock Tower, Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

The working session will be broadcast live over the Internet and can be accessed from the Forum webpage of the Department of Education and Skills website (www.education.ie).

A limited number of places are available to the general public to attend the working session. Members of the public who would like to attend are invited to apply by Friday 28 October. Due to the limited number of places, there will be a requirement to pre-register in advance of the November 17 session. Please note that it may not be possible to accommodate all those who submit applications to attend. Those who have previously made a formal written submission to the Advisory Group will be given priority. Entrance will be by invitation only. Applicants will be notified by 9 November.

The application for attendance overleaf should be completed and e-mailed to: patronageforum@education.gov.ie or can be forwarded to:

Breda Naughton
Secretary to the Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector
Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

Application for attendance at the Public Session
Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector

17th November, 2011

**Clock Tower, Department of Education and Skills,
Marlborough St. Dublin 1.**

Applicant's Details

Name	
Position (if applicable)	
Organisation (if applicable)	
Address	
Telephone	
Email address	

Is this application a personal one or is it made as a member of an organisation?

Personal [] A member of an organisation []

Applications may be in English or Irish.