

Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector
Working Session: 22, 23 and 24 June 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 submissions from thirteen main stakeholder groups and from other 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 has been 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.

The Chair of the Advisory Group, Professor John Coolahan, in his address at the Forum launch, announced that a key working session of the Forum will take place on 22, 23 and 24 June in the Clock Tower of the Department of Education and Skills complex on Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. At this session, the thirteen main stakeholder groups will each have an allocated time period. The Advisory Group will discuss and examine issues arising from their submissions with the representatives of the stakeholders.

These sessions 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 also available to the general public to observe the working session. Please note that there will be no opportunity for a question and answer session between the general public and the Advisory Group at this session.

Members of the public who would like to observe this working session of the Forum are invited to apply by Friday 10th June. There will be a requirement to pre-register in advance of this working session. Please note that it may not be possible to accommodate all those who submit applications to attend the sessions. Depending on demand, tickets may be available for one day only. Entrance will be by invitation only. Applicants will be notified after 15th June.

Requests should be e-mailed to: patronageforum@education.gov.ie or can be forwarded to:

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