**Item 4. Independent Review of Education**

James et al

Thanks for your engagement with the Panel on 23 March – the Panel found the session very helpful and I would expect the need for further engagement over the next 12 months as the Panel progress their work.

Apologies also – I had hoped to get in touch last week regarding the follow up paper but time got away from me.

The issues you have mentioned below cover the majority of the key points that the Panel asked to be covered in the follow up paper.  The points that I have recorded are below for your action / consideration as appropriate – some are already addressed in your email.

* **Supply of teachers** – is there sufficient supply in the system to meet demand and how might this change in future years with predicted downturn in pupil population.  Linked to this is the point that one Department sets the numbers and another pays – does this present any issues?
* The Departmental instruction regarding **Irish-medium trained teachers** and UCETNI view.  Gaps in supply of IME teachers, especially at post-primary.
* **Continuing Professional Development** – an assessment on the current offering and views on an “optimum model”, including estimated costings if possible.
* **Academic diversification** – the wider remit than ITE.
* **Destination of graduates** (albeit acceptance that data may not be available.
* Role of **alternative placements** (including further examples?) – *this was brought up in a very positive manner from other stakeholders involved in special education so it would be interesting to learn more on this aspect.*
* Enhancing **language education**.
* How is **shared education** promoted?

Appreciate there is potentially a lot to cover and you are already very busy – we also have the Easter break.  If you were in a position to get something to us by Friday 13 May that would be appreciated however if this isnt feasible I am happy to discuss.

Thanks again.

Peter

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**Cc:** St Mary's University College <[p.finn@smucb.ac.uk](mailto:p.finn@smucb.ac.uk)>; James Nelson <[J.Nelson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:J.Nelson@qub.ac.uk)>; [jd.barr@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:jd.barr@ulster.ac.uk); [P.Eaton@Stran.ac.uk](mailto:P.Eaton@Stran.ac.uk); Martin Hagan <[m.hagan@stmarys-belfast.ac.uk](mailto:m.hagan@stmarys-belfast.ac.uk)>  
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Hi Victoria

Many thanks for giving colleagues from UCETNI member institutions the opportunity to speak to the review team on 23 March. We found the discussion to be helpful and constructive and look forward to supporting the review team in its work as it progresses.

Following on from the meeting, we are planning to produce a paper that: outlines the importance and strengths of teacher education in Northern Ireland and identifies options for how this might, under the umbrella of UCETNI, be developed into the future; explains the contribution that the higher-education institutions make in terms of the continuing professional development of teachers and how this can be used to support the TPL strategy; and identify some recommendations in respect of modern languages. These are the key issues we took from the meeting. If there are any others that you would like us to address, please let us know and we will accommodate these. An indication of when you would like us to submit a paper would also be welcome.

Many thanks again for the very helpful meeting.

James Noble-Rogers

Executive Director

UCET