

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

## THE INVOLVEMENT OF OTHERS IN OUR WORK: THE USE OF ASSOCIATE ASSESSORS

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) wishes to extend its use of Associate Assessors in support of inspection in the pre-school, primary, post-primary, Irish-medium education, initial teacher education, further and higher education, and training sectors. Associate Assessors will normally be invited to take part in a number of inspections in the course of a one-year tenure and, if the opportunities arise, they will be invited to become involved in other aspects of policy work in the Department of Education. The period of tenure may be extended by mutual agreement.

The Associate Assessor initiative aims to:

- provide the opportunity for current practitioners to inform and contribute to the improvement of the inspection process;
- develop an understanding of inspection procedures, processes and protocols among education, and training practitioners;
- contribute to improvement and raising standards, by developing the use of the self-evaluation process in relation to learning and teaching/training.

The developing business needs of the Inspectorate will determine the number of appointments.

Applicants must be prepared to work across Northern Ireland. Travel and subsistence expenses will be payable at current NICS rates.

Applicants also must:

- be employed in a substantive capacity in a pre-school, primary, post-primary, Irish-medium education, initial teacher education, further and higher education, training organisation, or in a support service, for example, CASS;
- be current practitioners committed to raising standards of learning and teaching/training in their particular sector;
- be able to demonstrate evidence of involvement in curriculum development, preferably in the implementation of curriculum innovation;
- demonstrate that they have implemented self-evaluation effectively within their own organisation;
- hold a position of responsibility within their own organisation, that would enable them to implement an agreed development activity within it;
- have access to a form of transport which will permit them to meet the requirements of the role in full;
- be willing to participate in focus groups from time to time, if requested by the Inspectorate.

Successful applicants will be required to undertake training; confirmation of appointment as an Associate Assessor will be dependent on the successful completion of this training.

Enhanced vetting procedures will be an integral part of the recruitment process.

An application form and sectoral specific criteria may be downloaded or obtained by writing to: Mrs Violet Davidson, Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19 7PR.

Completed application forms must be returned to the above address to arrive not later than 5:00 pm on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008. CVs will not be accepted.

All applications will be considered strictly on the basis of merit.

