



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:
Department of Education
Department for the Economy



Department of
Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

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13 October 2021

Dear Colleague

EMPOWERING IMPROVEMENT - STEPPING FORWARD TOGETHER

I hope you are well.

It is heart-warming to see our children and young people return to education and training and for many practical and extra-curricular activities to resume across our school communities. That said, I am very mindful of the many new and ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic.

The needs of children and young people are at the heart of what all of us do who work or are involved in education. My colleagues and I in the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI), are keen to work alongside you throughout this academic year, and to support your important work in the key area of self-evaluation leading to improvement. We would also like to work collaboratively with you in the co-design of a new inspection strategy that meets the need of our education system in the 21st century.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused widespread disruption to education and training over the last eighteen months. As your school or organisation looks and moves forward, I would like to invite you to become involved in the 'Empowering Improvement – Stepping Forward Together' project.

As you will know, for many years now, ETI has worked successfully with a significant group of Associate Assessors (AAs) from a range of phases of education and training. The programme of development work with the AAs has gained recognition internationally by the OECD for example, for its innovative approaches to collaborative evaluation. The project will include, and build upon, the professional learning strategies and techniques used to such good effect with the AAs. ETI will provide

funding towards the cost of substitute cover to enable key members of staff to prepare for, participate in, and follow up on the ETI-led professional learning activities; these are being planned for the early part of 2022. Further detail on the proposed content of the professional learning within the project can be found in the attached brief overview.

I would appreciate if you could complete the short expression of interest form by clicking:

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/de-nisra-education-and-training-inspectorate/d5441a30>

This should be returned **before 12.00 noon on Wednesday 20 October 2021.**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Faustina Graham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Faustina".

FAUSTINA GRAHAM
Chief Inspector