

5.	<p>Guidance Notes for an Out of Catchment Area Form – John Swindlehurst</p> <p>JS explained that most Members had been on an Appeal Panel and it would be beneficial if 4 or 5 Members could form a working group to produce Guidance Notes explaining the system to parents. Rooms could be made available at Hamilton House for the group to meet and travel expenses only would be paid. Members should contact JS if interested.</p>	JS
6.	<p>Questions from the Education Council Members</p> <p>Question (i) raised by Mr S Bevan</p> <p><i>i. While acknowledging that there are many genuine cases where "Out of Catchment" school placements are granted, is the Department able to discourage Headteachers from actively encouraging Out of Catchment applications which cause disappointment for the families involved and additional costs to the DEC?</i> – JG explained that Headteachers were aware of the policy changes but did not always want to accept them and some parents were being misled as to the availability of places. JG stated that as the DEC's representatives, this issue needs to be raised by Members at the first Governors Meeting in the new term. It was also advised that provisions were in place for pupils who attend the Bunscoill and the two church schools, as per the details set out on the AP3 Form.</p> <p>Question (ii) raised by Mr S Bevan</p> <p><i>ii. Will the Education Council be involved in the discussions taking place around the Scope of Government Report?</i> – The CEO reported that Heather Christian and himself had been working on high level business cases in respect of School Meals and Youth, as both services could be provided alternatively. They had met with members of Scope in respect of the report review and the defined timeframe. The CEO said that comments to School Meals, Youth and Heather Christian from Members would be most welcome.</p> <p>Question (iii) raised by Mr S Bevan</p> <p><i>iii. Should the Education Council be concerned that it has not been included in the Organisational Structure incorporated into the recently published Department of Education and Children Business Plan?</i> – The CEO explained that the Education Council were not part of the Department, but a separate entity and were therefore not included, but advised that Heather Christian was to attend the autumn meeting.</p> <p>Question (iv) raised by Mrs G Skinner</p> <p><i>iv. (a) I understand that examination invigilators are to be required to register as self-employed and will consequently require individual public liability insurance (cost quoted by Tower Insurance £250) and police checks. There are now real concerns that many of the current teams of invigilators may not be willing to continue in this vital role.</i></p> <p><i>(b) What steps have been taken to protect the next examination season and are there contingency plans in place if the current teams were to choose to withdraw their support and experience?</i> - MB said that he was cautiously optimistic. Currently talks were taking place with Treasury and there may be a way forward but he was unable to comment any further as yet. There needs to be a clear message put out that discussions are on-going. Heather Christian should be able to up-date in due</p>	<p>All Ed Council Members</p> <p>HC</p>

course.

Question (v) (i) raised by Mrs G Skinner and (ii) raised by Mrs J Pendree

v. (i) I am delighted to see that the long overdue replacement for Ballacloan and Fairfield Schools seems to be progressing and the plans have been displayed. The community are understandably very enthusiastic and excited about this project. I am aware that this has been in the "pink book" for some time, but would like to know when the Department will be asking Tynwald for the funding to building and completion stage?

(ii) When will the new school for Fairfield and Ballacloan start and finish? Considering money can be found for Ballakermeen High School's 6th Form extension with immediate effect, how long must these two schools wait for new premises, especially now that they are to be amalgamated when Mrs Gill retires? – The Minister confirmed that Treasury are keen to work to a completion date of 2016, with building commencing 2015. This construction is much needed by both parents and the Department. Interest had been shown at the recent Open Night planning meeting.

Question (vi) raised by Mrs J Pendree

vi. (i) How does the Department justify removing even further outside sport/recreational area at Ballakermeen High School for another extension?

(ii) Should a decision regarding all Island 6th Form provision not have been made before this extension was agreed?

(iii) The school is surely now not able to provide adequate outdoor facilities for a school population that size at break and lunchtime? –

The CEO stated that this had always been a contentious issue. It may be resolved once the 6th Form matter has been addressed. Doing the best that can be achieved on a tight site, but there were much better indoor facilities at BHS.

Question (vii) raised by Mrs M Frankwick

vii a. There is no statement as to whether a teacher or parent Governor can stand for re-election after the initial 2 year term and no statement of any maximum term that the position can be held by any one person. – JG stated that there is no statement regarding the number of terms a teacher or parent Governor can serve, as they are appointed following an election.

b. If a parent or teacher Governor is due to retire on 1st September 2013, does their term of office now automatically continue until 1st January 2014 (provided they still fulfil all criteria for office). – JG said that the 1st January was to fit in with the Appointments Commission and the appointment of the new Education Council Members.

c. Why do the Instruments of Governance state that the co-opted Governors should retire on 1st September which will surely now be out of line with all other members of the Governing Body? – JG advised that the power to appoint Co-Opted Governors lay with the Governors and not with the Headteacher, except in the case of a new school.

Question (viii) raised by Mrs F Robinson

viii How is an 'internal' candidate defined when considering applications for vacancies in the primary and secondary schools and at the Isle of Man College of Further and Higher Education? – MB responded to this question, but

	<p>afterwards circulated the following clarification:</p> <p>Dear Council Members</p> <p>I think I may have inadvertently misled you this morning when we discussed Internal Adverts. I spend most of my time dealing with teachers and my answer was skewed towards the situation which exists for them.</p> <p>For teachers in primary and secondary schools we are accepting applications from candidates who are Manx Workers and who are not necessarily employed by us, or indeed resident on the Island at present. Schools are aware of this and we have also written to anyone who has declared an interest in finding a post in an Island school to inform them of this. Adverts are still marked as Internal as they are not being advertised other than through the internal Government mechanisms including the Government website.</p> <p>All other posts, including all posts at IOM College, are internal to the existing Government workforce which includes staff who are registered for supply/relief work. This is deliberately flexible as movement of staff within Government creates vacancies in other sections and Department which could be considered as possible redundant posts.</p> <p>I apologise if I wasn't quite as clear as I could have been this morning and hopefully this explanation now makes the situation clear.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Any other matters of urgent importance</p> <p>A Member enquired if there was any filtering in place for the 300 / 400 i-pads in primary schools and if there was sufficient resource within the Department to maintain these? This was confirmed and it was advised that the ICT Adviser Graham Kinrade was looking into this. The devices would still operate through a filtering system when taken home. Details were circulated on the new payment of expenses to Members in respect of mileage allowance, which was now at a rate of 46p irrespective of the vehicle and 26p for motorbikes. The new rates would come into effect from 1st August. New claim forms will be issued in due course.</p> <p>The Minister concluded the Meeting by stating that the CEO, Stuart Dobson, would have retired before the next meeting. His input to the Education Council Meetings was greatly valued and would be missed.</p>	
	<p>The meeting ended at 12.15.</p>	

Signed

Minister for Education and Children

Date