

## **Consultation on proposed changes to the School Meals Statistical Bulletin**

Analytical Services Unit (ASU) as part of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) within the Department of Education in Northern Ireland, is responsible for undertaking the annual school meals census and publishing the results in the annual school meals statistical bulletin.

The publication is designated as Official Statistics and is governed by the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 and the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Within the Code, the Protocol on User Engagement requires all changes to an Official Statistic to be subjected to a public consultation. In compliance with this Protocol, the Department is carrying out this consultation which covers the proposed changes to this Official Statistics publication.

You are invited to provide feedback on these proposals (using the template provided in the Annex) no later than **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2016**.

Please return to: [statistics@deni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@deni.gov.uk)

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### ***School Meals Statistical Bulletin***

The primary purpose of this statistical bulletin is to provide results of the annual data collection relating to the uptake of school meals in Northern Ireland. The statistical bulletin is accompanied by downloadable excel tables of data.

Information is currently provided on:

- Uptake of school meals
- Entitlement to free school meals
- Uptake of free school meals
- Pupils not taking school meals
- Adults taking school meals

The commentary within the statistical bulletin and many of the data tables include analyses by Education and Library Board (ELB), school type and school management type.

The most recent school meals statistical bulletin and tables are available [here](#).

### ***Proposed Changes***

On 01 April 2015, the Education Authority became operational and took over all of the roles and responsibilities of the former Education and Library Boards (ELBs) and the Staff Commission. It is no longer appropriate to include analyses by ELB as these entities no longer exist. All references and analyses by ELB in commentary, charts and tables will therefore be removed.

The removal of all analyses by school management type from the data tables, in conjunction with the removal of ELB analyses, will enable the number of tables to be condensed from the current 13 to 6. Analyses by school management type will continue to be available on request.

**RESPONSE FORM:**

**CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO DE STATISTICAL BULLETIN: SCHOOL MEALS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

(Please expand response boxes as required)

**Details of respondent**

Name:

Organisation(s) represented:

Address

Telephone number

E-mail address

**1. Do you currently use this publication?** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (please tick your answer)

If yes, what uses do you make of the information in the publication (list as many as appropriate) and what types of decision does this information inform?

**2. Do you currently use the downloadable Excel spreadsheet?** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (please tick your answer)

If yes, what uses do you make of the data in the downloadable spreadsheets (list as many as appropriate) and what types of decision does this information inform?

**3. Will the proposed changes have a significant impact on your use of the information/data?** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Proposed changes:

- a) removing analyses by Education and Library Board (ELB) from the publication and Excel tables, and
- b) removing analyses by school management type from the publication and Excel tables

If yes, please list the main impacts, if any, associated with each change.

**4. Do you anticipate extending your use of the available information/data in the future, including using it for the first time?** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (please tick your answer)

If yes, what uses do you anticipate making of the information in the revised publication (include as many as appropriate) and what types of decision will this information inform?

If yes, what uses do you anticipate making of the data in the downloadable Excel spreadsheets (include as many as appropriate) and what types of decision will this data inform?

If yes, is there a reason why did you not previously use the information/data for these purposes?

e.g. you didn't know that downloadable data was available; you weren't aware of what was in the downloadable tables; your work area/ area of interest has changed

**ANY OTHER COMMENTS**

**Do you have any other comments relevant to this consultation?**

**Responses should be returned no later than Friday 25th March 2016.**

**Please return to: [statistics@deni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@deni.gov.uk)**

**Stephen Paulin  
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**Many thanks for your response to this consultation. Please note that responses may be made public and attributable to the respondent.**