



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended
31 March 2014



NDPB NICCY ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

Laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly under Commissioner for Children
and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003
by OFMDFM

on

27 October 2014

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FOREWORD

FROM THE NI COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Welcome to my Annual Report for the 2013-2014 business year, and the last year of my Corporate Plan 2011-2014. This is also my last year as Commissioner and I would like to take this opportunity to reflect and to share some of my thoughts from the last eight years as Commissioner for Children and Young People, in Northern Ireland.

I have continued this year to focus the work of the office, on my duties and powers to make children and young people's lives better. In carrying out the work contained within our business plan, with resources available to me, I have also worked with Government, to influence, but also to challenge when issues emerged. Throughout all of this work I have committed to ensure that the voices and views of children and young people, were listened to and taken into account, as well as that of other stakeholders, individuals and organisations.

This year I held my second Annual Conference celebrating not only International Children's Day, but also NICCY's 10th anniversary. Our keynote speaker was Trond Waage International Child Rights Expert Chair, International Institute for Future Generations and former Ombudsman for Children in Norway.

The conference gave me the opportunity to look back at all the work NICCY has achieved over the last ten years, as well as during my tenure. Certainly there has been greater recognition of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by Ministers and MLAs over the last number of years. This is reflected for example, in 'mentions' of the UNCRC in debates and questions on the floor of the chamber.

Work was started and has continued in pushing forward Child Rights legislation. An 'Options paper' was produced, outlining options for full incorporation of the CRC into domestic law. We have had ongoing engagement with OFMDFM on this issue (with support from our Child Rights Implementation Group) and this will continue in the year ahead. I have also seen the embedding of "Best Interests" into the Review of Youth Justice and an increase in participation of children and young people within government policy and legislation.

While children's rights are on the agenda of government, there is still more to be done. This must be built on, to not only strengthen and incorporate the UNCRC into policy and legislation, but to make sure it is fully implemented and it becomes reality 'on the ground'.

In the last 8 yrs I have seen little movement around the issue of child poverty, despite the introduction of the Child Poverty Act 2010. A recent Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) report commissioned by the Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) has projected that relative child poverty will rise from 21.6% in 2011-12 to 30.9% in 2020-21, more than eight percentage points higher than the UK figure. Absolute child poverty is projected to rise from 25.0% to 38.5% over the same period, more than ten percentage points above the UK figure. Given the impact of the economic downturn on those already living in poverty and the increasing dependency by families on food banks, welfare reform, if introduced, will have a devastating impact on the quality of many children's lives. Indeed from our own report on welfare reform, published in 2012, we know that many of the households affected will have at least one parent working, resulting in a growing class of working poor.

Last year extensive work was undertaken on proposed new Age: Goods, Facilities and Services legislation. We worked jointly with the Equality Commission and the wider children's sector, as well as Government officials to ensure the inclusion of children and young people. We sought a legal opinion from Robin Allen QC, a leading legal expert in the field, and that of Dee Masters BL. This was presented at a seminar in the Stormont Hotel in October to help underline the importance of inclusion. The legal opinion also formed part of a presentation to the OFMDFM Committee, with Robin Allen QC, the Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission, Older Person's Commissioner and myself highlighting the importance of inclusion of all ages in the legislation. In addition we also met directly with Junior Ministers and officials to further reinforce this message. I also appreciated the support from children and young people and colleagues in the voluntary sector, who campaigned so effectively on this issue.

There were a number of reports launched throughout the year, on issues such as shared education and separated children. The detail of these reports will follow later in this report, but the overarching theme of these was to highlight real and current issues affecting children and young people. The reports identified new findings and often gaps and failings that need to be addressed, so that young people can experience the services and treatment they are entitled to.

I would like to pay tribute and to thank my Youth Panel who have helped and supported me through my work, and at many events and meetings. Often speaking from the heart about issues that affected them or representing the organization at campaigns or in the media, they have played a key role in my work and the work of the office over the last eight years.

And finally, I want to thank all of the staff at NICCY for their loyalty, hard work and dedication in promoting and safeguarding the rights and best interests of all our children and young people especially those that are the most vulnerable.



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer

A WORD FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE



The year under report (2013 - 14) has been a busy one – ending as it does, our Corporate Plan (2011 -14) focusing on five high level objectives. This year also saw NICCY celebrate its 10 year anniversary culminating in our second Annual Conference on November 20th – International Children’s Day and anniversary of the ratification of the UNCRC. As part of this we published ‘Highlights’ of our work over the past decade as well as further in depth summaries on our website. We were delighted to have Trond Waage, former Children’s Commissioner from Norway – the first country to appoint such – as our keynote speaker, and to have input from the First and Deputy First Ministers, our two Junior Ministers and our Education Minister. The contributions of Young People in the process including the event itself was of particular note and widely appreciated.

NICCY’s mission - to safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of Children and Young People - is met through the work of the Office including our casework service addressing breaches of their rights – supporting parents/guardians who are the primary source of referral, investigating complaints, providing advice to government, conducting research, making calls to government and/or holding government to account on how they deliver for our Children and Young People, and providing training and raising awareness of their rights and the UNCRC. Mindful of the many issues facing our Children and Young People, this work covers a range of spheres and contexts e.g. in education, health, justice, those within the social and economic sphere as well as in equality, legal and political contexts. As we work towards a ‘Child Rights’ Bill for Northern Ireland which would see incorporation of the UNCRC, we are also working to progress the ‘general measures of implementation’ as contained within the UNCRC.



We have therefore throughout the year, continued to increase engagement with our Stakeholders and develop collaborative working on areas of common concern such as: carrying on with our work on proposed Age Discrimination legislation with Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) and the Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland (COPNI) and with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) across the Sector to ensure the inclusion of Children and Young People in this; supporting the Young People involved in a project against physical punishment with CAU (Children Are Unbeatable); launching our report on 'Children's Budgeting' at a joint event with CiNI (Children in N. Ireland); convening a roundtable of sectoral organisations as part of the 'Haas Talks' process – inviting those in particular, who work with Young People at Interface areas; and we have continued to deliver Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events and training to our legal Stakeholders and Professionals who work/aim to work with Children and Young People; NICCY also works with other Children's Commissioners in the UK, Ireland and Europe across a range of areas e.g. State Parties' UNCRC obligations and Child Poverty.

This year saw the development of our new Corporate Plan for the 2014 - 17 period. Thanks are due to all our Stakeholders who contributed, provided feedback and attended focus groups during its drafting. The Plan outlines the proactive work of the Office based on NICCY's statutory duties reflected in the cross-cutting high level objectives whilst also bearing in mind the need to retain the 'flexibility' to react/respond to new and emerging developments/issues including those e.g. in response to the work of the Northern Ireland Executive, Government Departments and their agencies. Our year 1 Business Plan based on this, was also submitted to OFMDFM for relevant approvals including Ministerial 'sign off'.

The time ahead is one of transition – organisationally, the current Commissioner's term of office ends in January 2015 and the process of appointing their successor by OFMDFM will commence shortly into the next business year.

We have this year submitted the recommendations arising from the Review of our Legislation as well as the required Article 24 Report and are currently awaiting response from OFMDFM.

The periodic 'Review of the Office' has now been scheduled for the next business year. On the political front, we have a series of upcoming elections over the next 3 years. Economically, we are aware of the growing impact of 'austerity measures' and that felt by organisations such as ours where budgets have been reduced. We will continue to find ways as/where possible of working more effectively and efficiently, ensuring value for money to the 'public purse' while delivering on our remit.

As we move forward we welcome opportunities for a renewed focus on same and I commend this report on our work of 2013 - 14 to you.



Mairéad McCafferty BA PGCE PQH LLM
Chief Executive



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland (NICCY) is an executive Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). NICCY was established on 1st October 2003 under the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

These accounts are prepared in accordance with Schedule 2 11 (1) of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and in accordance with the 2013-14 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland (DFP).

Principal Activities

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's principal aim is to 'safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young people'. While the detailed powers are set out in the legislation, they may be grouped under three main areas as follows:

Promoting children's rights - the Commissioner will be guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), an international agreement setting out how children should be treated and the rights that they have;
Advising Government on children's rights and best interests – both in response to requests from Government and proactively as the Commissioner determines.
Complaints and legal action - the Commissioner can deal with individual complaints from children and young persons, or their parents / guardians about any services that impact on those under 18 years of age (or under the age of 21 for those with a disability or leaving care);

Senior Management Team

Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner

Mairead McCafferty
Chief Executive

Marlene Kinghan
Head of Communication and Participation

Mollie Simpson
Head of Legal and Investigations

Alex Tennant
Head of Policy and Research

Audit and Risk Committee

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland seeks to ensure the highest standards of corporate governance and compliance with the values of public service. It has appointed an Audit and Risk Committee which oversees internal audit arrangements and ensures they are conducted in accordance with the standards as set out in the Government Internal Audit Manual. The Audit and Risk Committee also oversees the Commissioners arrangements for risk management. The Committee meet at least four times per year and its members are:

Julie Erskine
Committee Chair

JP Irvine
Committee member

Joe Campbell
Committee member

Important Events Occurring After the Year End

There have been no significant events occurring after the year end that would affect this report and the accounts.

Results for the Year

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland operates as a going concern. The Commissioner is financed by funding from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. Funding for 2014-15 has been approved.

The results for the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland for the period are set out in detail on pages 56 - 61. The net expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2014 was £1,461,695. This net expenditure resulted in a balance in reserves of £79,979 at 31 March 2014.

Non Current Assets

Details of the movements of non current assets are set out in Notes 5 and 6 to the Accounts.

Research & Development

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland does not engage in any research and development activities as defined by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Charitable Donations

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland made no charitable donations during the period.

Pensions Liabilities

Staff Pension Liabilities are borne by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) – see Remuneration Report and notes 1.8 and 2(b) to the Accounts.

Payments to Suppliers

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services received in accordance with the Confederation of British Industry's Prompt Payer's Code.

Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment was due within 10 working days of receipt of the goods or services, or presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is later.

During the period 82.67% of bills were paid within this standard (85.59% in 2012-13) and 95.79% of invoices were paid within 30 calendar days standard (97.65% in 2012-13).

Disabled Persons

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland seeks to follow best practice guidance as set out in Disability Codes of Practice, on employment and the provision of services to disabled persons.

Equality of Opportunity

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is committed to the provision of equality of opportunity and fair participation to all persons regardless of sex, marital status, religious belief, political affiliation/opinion, age, family status, ethnic or racial background, sexual orientation, disability, nationality or trade union membership.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland will, in all its actions, conform to both the letter and the spirit of the relevant equality legislation. The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland will provide equality of opportunity to all persons irrespective of whether or not there are legislative provisions in place.

Employee Involvement

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland encourages widespread consultation and exchange of information at all levels within the organisation through staff and team briefings.

Data Protection and Freedom of Information

The Commissioner has in place policies and arrangements for compliance with Data Protection and Freedom of Information Legislation.

NICCY has recently reviewed all data it currently holds, both physical and computerised, and has put measures in place to ensure data which is no longer required is disposed of safely and securely according to NICCY's Data Retention policy. All staff are required to ensure that data being stored is not kept for longer than is necessary and when disposal dates approach, steps are taken to dispose of this securely with disposal notifications confirming destruction.

In relation to portable media, NICCY locks all USB ports on work stations, ensuring no data can be transferred to portable devices without authorisation. All staff who have been issued with mobile phones, have also signed off on the Mobile Device Policy, ensuring these devices are not used for storage or onward transmission of data.

Following a review of NICCY's computer systems, all staff signed up to a confidentiality agreement but further steps have been taken in relation to user access on the NICCY network. Controls are in place which prevent staff viewing files or folders they are not authorized to view. Passwords and account details of staff who leave NICCY's employment are also changed on the day they leave, ensuring there is no unauthorized access.

NICCY have also reviewed and agreed the Service Level Agreement with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) for the next 3 years (2013-2016) which covers all security matters in relation to NICCY computer systems.

Freedom of Information requests are logged and maintained by the Information Officer. A spreadsheet details all requests made by individuals, including the nature of the request and the timescales involved.

NICCY is confident that it complies with the current Data Protection and Freedom of Information Legislation and will continue to monitor this on an on-going basis.

During the year there were twelve Freedom of Information requests, all of which were responded to within the statutory time limit.

There were no personal data related incidents during the year.

Sick Absence Data

During the course of the year, 12.1% of the available working days were lost due to staff sickness in NICCY (5.1% in 2012-13). This figure also includes long-term absence which contributed approximately 2.2% of the working days lost (2.8% in 2012-13).

Register of Interests

An up to date register of interests is maintained by the Accounting Officer and is available for inspection at the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland offices in Equality House, 7 – 9 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DP.

Auditors

The financial statements are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland (C&AG) in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. He is head of the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) and he and his staff are wholly independent of the Commissioner for Children and Young People. He reports his findings to the NI Assembly.

The audit of the financial statements for 2013-14 resulted in an audit fee of £11,249 which is included in the Operating Costs within the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure. No additional remuneration was paid to the NIAO for non-audit work during the 2013-14 year.

Disclosure of Audit Information

As far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the entity's auditors are unaware. The Accounting Officer has taken all steps that she ought to have taken to make herself aware of any audit information and to establish that the entity's auditors are aware of that information.

Offices of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland:

Equality House
7-9 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
BT2 7DP

Auditor:
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1EU

Signed by:



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
20th October 2014



STRATEGIC REPORT

Context

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland has prepared this report in accordance with Schedule 2 11 (1) of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and in accordance with the 2013-14 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FRoM) issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland (DFP).

The Commissioner

Ms Patricia Lewsley-Mooney was re-appointed for a second and final term as Commissioner for Children and Young People on 8 January 2011, for a period of 4 years.

Mission

Article 6(1) of the 2003 Order established the Commissioner's principal aim/mission which is to:

- Safeguard and Promote the Rights and Best Interests of Children and Young People.

NICCY reports on its progress against objectives and targets within its annual Business Plan on a quarterly basis to OFMDFM. This Strategic Report details the outputs, broad outcomes and achievements over the course of the 2013-14 business year.

Full details of our priorities and objectives are set out in NICCY's Corporate Plan 2011 – 14 and the annual Business Plans, all of which are available on the NICCY website (www.niccy.org).

Our work entails effective working relationships with our Stakeholders not only in terms of accountability, transparency and collaborative and partnership working but also in terms of fulfilling our legislative function and remit.

NICCY's new Stakeholder Engagement Strategy identifies them as:

- Children and young people;
- Parents and adults;
- Government Ministers, MLAs and Politicians;
- Government Departments (including Sponsor Dept OFMDFM) and officials;
- Statutory Bodies and ALBs (NDPBs);
- Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs);
- Media – print, online, TV, radio;
- Legal institutions and agencies;
- Domestic, national and international rights bodies (NI Assembly, British and Irish Network of Ombudsmen and Children's Commissioners (BINOCC), European Network of Ombudsmen's for Children (ENOC), UN Committee on the Rights of the Child).

NICCY's Work Over the Year

Progress against agreed Key Performance Indicators

Having noted some of the highlights from 2013 – 14 I am pleased to report that in terms of our progress against key performance indicators under our five high level objectives set out below, four of these were met in full and the fifth was met substantially with one piece of work being carried forward into the last business year of the corporate plan period. Further detail on these is presented as follows.

Objective 1: Raise awareness of children's rights and the functions of the Commissioner amongst children, parents and other stakeholders.

Objective 2: Review and advise Government on development of policies, services and legislation relating to children's rights and best interests.

Objective 3: Use the Commissioner's powers to challenge breaches of children and young people's rights.

Objective 4: Ascertain the views of children and young people in relation to issues which affect their lives.

Objective 5: Maximise NICCY's impact and corporate performance.

1. Children's and Young People's Rights: Raising Awareness and Influencing Practice

NICCY's work in raising awareness of Children and Young People's rights and the work of the office continued this year through working with many stakeholders and partners. In line with our Article 7 duties, a key focus of this work involved working directly with Children and Young People and with many others working with or, on the behalf of them. This included parents, professionals, students, officials, NGOs and staff within statutory agencies responsible for delivering services.

An important feature of our work is continuing to enhance the content, delivery and quality assurance systems as part of our Training and Education Strategy. The feedback from participants demonstrated the importance of this approach in influencing the development of good practice within a 'rights based framework' including the 'Voice of children and young people' as per Article 12 of the UNCRC. We also incorporated best practice in our engagement by utilizing the skills, knowledge and expertise of staff across the range of disciplines in NICCY e.g. youth work, legal, policy, research, teaching and communications

In delivering our 2013-14 Business Plan objectives, NICCY has:

- Directly engaged with over 2,100 children and young people during 21 sessions including workshops in schools, youth

- clubs, public events and other similar awareness raising activities;
- Engaged and delivered training on children's rights and NICCY's role and remit to over 550 professionals/trainee professionals in the education, health and social care fields;
- Delivered lectures to students in Queen's University, University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College;
- Held three 'Legal Outreach 'Clinics' with marginalised young people including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN), and two with Parents
- Delivered training in the BA course in Early Childhood Education at Stranmillis
- Teacher Training University;
- Delivered training to second Year Community Youth Work students at the University of Ulster;
- Delivered a three-hour Masters level lecture and workshop to the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Queens University Belfast
- Workshop delivered to 30 practitioners across Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
- Delivered training to Regional College students in 'Social and Childcare'.
- Delivered three parents programmes focusing on areas of high social & economic deprivation and foster carers
- Delivery of capacity building workshop to Sport NI (in partnership with NSPCC) with representatives of 27 sporting governing bodies

NICCY has delivered tailored Awareness, Training & Education programmes through implementation of its Stakeholder Engagement and Training & Education Strategies to over 550 students and professionals in the fields of education, youth work, health and social work.

Restructuring training delivery for peer facilitators at St Mary's University has resulted in the development of more structured and tailored training courses for teachers in primary, secondary and Irish medium education.

Overview of stakeholder engagement including Training and Education

Our legal stakeholder engagement plan saw us engage more proactively with members of the judiciary and legal practitioners. We met with several judges, both to outline the role and work of the Commissioner and the legal function of the organisation and to seek input into our work in respect of matters which had come to their attention through Court. We delivered lectures to student practitioners and to Solicitors Associations. We held 2 CPD legal events and delivered our Child Rights Information Service through lunchtime seminars for solicitors and barristers.

Overall we have:

- Held 3 legal outreach clinics with children, young people and parents. This year these were in the area of Special Educational Need and we produced a guide for parents through the complexities of this system.
- Delivered lectures on NICCY's Duties and Powers to trainee legal professionals in the Institute of Professional Legal Studies in Belfast.
- Delivered lectures to a number of Solicitors' Associations across Northern Ireland
- Held 2 CPD events in November and March for legal practitioners on 'The Best Interests of the Child in Family and in Criminal Proceedings' and 'The Voice of the Child – Evidence from the Child in Children Order Proceedings'.
- Held 2 lunchtime seminars in June and October on 'The Lisbon Treaty' and Publicity in Children's Cases and Child Relocation Cases'

Online

In 2012 NICCY undertook a landscape review of its online footprint and activity. This looked at its current online communication channels to identify ways these could further maximise engagement with our stakeholders. It also examined and explored other online opportunities to raise awareness of the Commissioner and the work of the office. Since then NICCY has taken forward the review recommendations, examples are outlined below:

- Following a successful pilot, we rolled out a regular schedule of the 'NICCY News' Ezine, our electronic newsletter. These have proved successful, with above average click through rates, that is people who click on to the website from the Ezines. They have become an established way of informing and keeping stakeholders up to date with NICCY's work and children's and young people's rights in general.
- Social media continues to be an important strand of NICCY's online strategy, and an online development group has been established to coordinate and manage this. Twitter (www.twitter.com/nichildcom) in particular is now an important way that NICCY keeps its 'followers' up to date on a daily and weekly basis. This ranges from information on the Commissioner's meetings and visits, to coverage of NICCY events and positions, on issues. NICCY's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/NICCYYouthPanel) also continues to attract 'views' and a new video was created by young people as part of our ten year commemoration.
- The corporate web site (www.niccy.org) moved forward with the second 'design and planning' stage of our web site redevelopment programme. As part of

this we ran a series of workshops and online surveys with stakeholders, staff and the Youth Panel. This informed the development of a new visual design and a new site architecture and structure. In the coming year the third and final 'build phase' will be undertaken and the new site will then be launched. In parallel with this process the current web site has been maintained and kept up to date with latest news and information resources, and has continued to attract a steady flow of visitors.

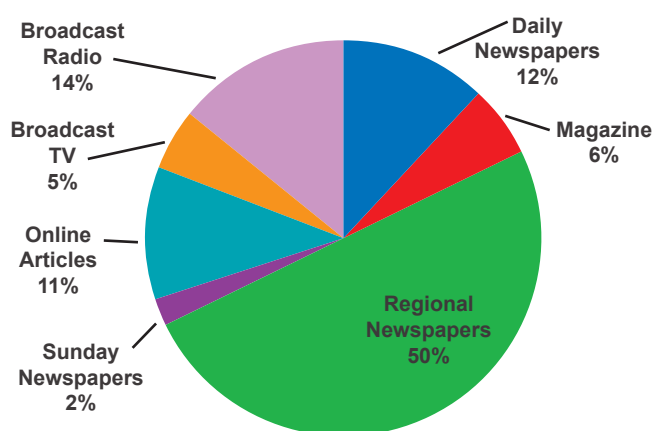
- Political monitoring is a key part of our work and we used our online outreach services to communicate a weekly summary of relevant Northern Ireland Assembly Written Answers which we put on our web site and tweeted every week to our 'followers'
- Online evaluation – in line with general communication best practice, NICCY uses a range of tools to monitor online activity. Web site, Twitter, Ezine, and YouTube analytics allow us to evaluate and quantify our online reach and impact. These are also important in horizon scanning and for the identification of emerging trends and issues affecting children and young people.

Last year NICCY was covered in 152 press articles, 42 pieces of broadcast coverage and 23 pieces of online coverage. This consisted of coverage of the Commissioner's visits to schools, events and youth clubs along with extensive coverage on issues such as Goods, Facilities and Services, Shared Education and Separated Children - three key pieces of work last year. 97% of overall coverage was positive or neutral and 3% was negative. A positive 'Media Performance Index' which measures quantity, quality and tone of coverage is considered to be anything from 50 -100, the lowest score in this period was 65, the average score was 87.

Almost 70 media releases, statements or enquiries were actioned and dealt with on a wide range of relevant topics. The Commissioner was interviewed and/or had stories covered on all broadcast outlets. An ongoing column in the leading 'Children and Young People Now', a specialist magazine for those working in the sector, continues to be submitted by NICCY every eight weeks, in rotation with the other three UK Children's Commissioners. This gives the Commissioner an opportunity to speak about issues important to children and young people's lives and the work of the office.

Media – Print / Radio / Television / Online

Media Coverage April 2013 - March 2014



Political sphere

Following on from the previous year, NICCY's political activity has focused on specific programmes of work.

The Commissioner has continued to engage in meetings with a number of key Ministers who have a significant remit for children and young people, and this has included the Junior Ministers and Ministers for Justice, Education and Health. The Commissioner has taken these opportunities to both advise and inform on

issues affecting children and young people but also to challenge and hold Government to account when she feels not enough is being done to meet their needs and best interests.

The Commissioner has presented at four Northern Ireland Assembly Committees and several written assembly questions were asked about the work of the Commissioner. The Commissioner has also met individual MLAs and other politicians to address their concerns, as well as to further raise awareness, influence decision making and pursue calls on key issues affecting children and young people.

2. Advising Government on the development of Legislation, Policy and Service Provision

The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Over this year NICCY has provided advice to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on a range of issues, however, our engagement has focussed on four main areas: the Delivering Social Change programme, the proposed Age Discrimination legislation, our proposals for Child Rights legislation, and the Northern Ireland input to the UK State report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

OFMDFM's Delivering Social Change

The Delivering Social Change programme is the Executive's mechanism for delivering on its commitments to realise children's rights and address social exclusion and poverty. As such, this programme has been an area of focus for NICCY. In January 2014, a draft 'Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People' strategy was released for consultation which aimed to

draw together the Executive's strategic work under the 10 Year Children's Strategy, UNCRC delivery, and the new 14-17 Child Poverty Strategy. Although this document had not been shared with the Commissioner in advance of the consultation launch, NICCY provided a detailed response to the Executive. Moreover the Commissioner presented her advice on the draft Strategy at the final consultation event.

While appreciating the intention to integrate the work for children and align it to the Delivering Social Change framework, the Commissioner advised the Executive to first review delivery of the Children's Strategy 2006-16, to determine what had worked well, and where improvements were needed. Any new strategy should be long term, embedded in the UNCRC and developed and implemented through a meaningful process of engagement with children and young people, NICCY, civil society, and parents/carers. The Commissioner also expressed significant concern at the strategic plans to address child poverty, given the IFS analysis commissioned by OFMDFM and published in January 2014, projects that relative poverty will rise to 31% by 2020, while absolute child poverty will reach 38% by 2020.

Proposed Age Discrimination legislation (Goods, Facilities and Services)

In this business year NICCY has continued to work with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland to ensure that proposals to extend age discrimination legislation to the areas of goods, facilities and services uphold children's rights. In the previous business year we jointly commissioned an expert legal paper from which, this year, we jointly developed a robust evidence based policy position and then produced a suite of advice papers to Government on the issue.

We engaged with the Junior Ministers and officials from OFMDFM to explain our position and rationale. We further briefed 3 of the main political parties regarding our position and conducted one to one meetings with other political representatives on this issue. During the process we also worked closely with stakeholders and hosted roundtables with representatives of the children's sector to hear their views and discuss progress and opportunities. The Commissioner spoke on this issue in various forums including during her key note speech at the NICCY annual event in November 2013. A range of opportunities to promote and raise awareness of the issues was undertaken through the media and in key publications and online

We further engaged with children and young people and key C&YP organisations by developing workshops and producing a children's version of our policy documents. This engagement included organisations supporting the Commissioners' evidence session to the OFMDFM committee, by protesting at Stormont highlighting the issue on social media and meeting directly with political representatives. We also set up a Facebook Campaign page and a Change.org petition.

The NICCY Youth Panel has been integral in raising awareness of this issue through the following:

- Helping develop the GFS workshops for C&YP stakeholders
- Developing a campaign strategy including: setting up and getting petition signatures; a social media campaign; awareness raising sessions in schools; emailing their constituency MLAs regarding this issue; storyboarding, filming and editing a video to increase awareness of the campaign and engage other young people.

As a direct result of this work a number of schools have taken on the GFS Campaign as a whole school issue.

Child Rights Legislation

At NICCY's annual conference in November 2013, in partnership with Dr Byrne and Professor Lundy of Queens University Belfast, we published a paper outlining options for taking forward Northern Ireland legislation to support better implementation of children's rights. This paper was the culmination of work over the previous 18 months, funded by the ESRC, and following on from work conducted by the QUB researchers for NICCY into the effectiveness of government delivery for children in Northern Ireland. It was also a response to developments in Wales and Scotland, both of which have seen the development of legislation to improve delivery mechanisms in relation to children's rights.

The 'options paper' considered each of the General Measures of Implementation recommended by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to review good practice in other countries and reflect on whether and how these could most usefully be incorporated into child rights legislation for Northern Ireland. This had been informed by a series of four workshops with voluntary sector organisations working on children's rights issues, and they were further discussed at the Annual Conference. We will continue discussions on these proposals with OFMDFM and other government departments in future years.

UK State report to UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Around every five years the UK state party is required to report progress in implementing the UNCRC to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and this is then reviewed by the Committee and

'Concluding Observations' provided. The four UK Commissioners seek to advise the devolved and UK governments on their report, as well as providing a 'shadow report' directly to the UN Committee. During 2013-14 the UK state party drafted its report to the UN Committee, drawing on information provided by the devolved governments. While NICCY sought to engage with OFMDFM in relation to the information provided, we were not able to provide advice on this as it was not shared with us in advance. It was disappointing to see that the Executive did not intend to produce a separate Northern Ireland report, as had been done in Scotland and Wales, but only provided very limited information to the UK government. Moreover, when the draft report was released for consultation, NICCY was disappointed at the limited coverage of Northern Ireland issues, and felt that it would not provide a strong basis for the UN Committee to consider how effectively children's rights had been addressed in Northern Ireland over the previous five years.

Department of Education

NICCY provided written and oral policy advice to the Department of Education on a broad range of educational matters during the year. These included the common funding scheme, pupil participation in schools, shared education, area-based planning, Education Other Than At School (EOTAS), and Special Educational Needs and inclusion. Submissions were made to the NI Assembly Education Committee's inquiry into the Education and Training Inspectorate and school improvement process and to the Employment and Learning Committee's inquiry into post Special Educational Need Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities. NICCY also engaged with a wide range of stakeholders from the statutory, voluntary

and community sectors to discuss and advise on various educational issues throughout the year.

In April 2013, the Commissioner launched a report of the findings from her consultation with approximately 6,000 pupils across Northern Ireland about their views and experiences of shared education. The Minister for Education, Mr John O'Dowd accepted the Commissioner's offer to consult with children and young people so that their insights could inform the report of the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Advancement of Shared Education (MAGASE). At the Report launch, the Minister made a commitment to give 'due weight' to pupils' views in deciding how to advance shared education. NICCY is continuing to monitor and advise on developments concerning this significant issue.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

NICCY has continued to engage with the Department on a range of important issues which relate to promoting the rights of children and young people to the best possible health and to be protected from harm.

This includes providing policy advice on a range of areas, including the Paediatric Review of Care which will inform changes to children's healthcare provisions for the next 10 year or more, the mental capacity bill and advancing discussions on the recommendations from the Still Vulnerable Research at scheduled meetings with the Department and its key agencies.

NICCY continue to be deeply concerned about the safety and wellbeing of young people affected by sexual exploitation. Although, the legislation which governs the

Office does not permit it to undertake additional investigations or inquiries whilst others are ongoing, the progress of key areas are being monitored and roundtable meetings facilitated with government officials and statutory authorities involved in key strands of work.

Guardianship for Separated Children Subject to Immigration Control (SCSIC)

This year, NICCY launched a report to review developments and explore options for guardianship for SCSIC in Northern Ireland. Key findings from the report included how the support, services and expertise provided to separated children may be variable and contingent on the skills and commitment of individual practitioners and the need to properly assess how effectively children's rights and best interests are being upheld by current arrangements.

The report made a number of general recommendations including the merits of improving data and information gathering, evaluating current practice, providing effective training for professionals and gathering the views and experiences of separated children. In relation to developing a guardianship model for NI, a number of options were recommended, this included keeping under review the need for a stand alone service, extending the role of the NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency (NIGALA), developing a NGO based 'specialist advocacy' model and enhancing the role of professionals within existing services.

NICCY has been engaging with the DHSSPS, other relevant departments, agencies and the NGO sector on the findings and recommendations. This includes advising Government on how the current proposals within the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill could offer a potential mechanism for enshrining the rights to a 'guardian' into domestic law for all separated children.

Department of Justice

During this business year, we continued our work in respect of youth justice, seeking to ensure Northern Ireland's justice system is fully child's right compliant. We have continued our engagement with stakeholders attending numerous forums, meetings and workshops.

We have advised government in respect of a number of proposals including Speeding Up Justice, Youth Engagement Clinics, Statutory Time Limits, Bail Reform, Legal Aid Reform and Custodial Arrangements for Children in Northern Ireland. We have done so by providing pre consultation advice, responding to consultations and attending meetings and workshops.

We have also continued to monitor, advise and challenge government's implementation of the Youth Justice Review recommendations.

Finally, we have continued to engage with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) through our attendance at regular Youth Champions meetings and further by providing advice on PSNI initiatives relevant to children and young people.

3. Challenging Breaches in Children's and Young People's Rights

Casework is a key function of NICCY's Legal and Investigations department. We carry this out in line with our legislative remit to safeguard and promote children and young people's rights. The aim of the casework function is to remedy or resolve cases without the need for recourse to legal proceedings. However we also undertake legal work and intervene in legal cases where appropriate. We can also initiate legal proceedings and perform an amicus curiae role for the Court. We continue to highlight breach of the rights of children and young people, identify gaps in service provision and scope areas for potential investigation and to inform our work going forward.

This year we dealt with 403 enquiries from children, young people, their parents and carers about matters where they believed their rights were not being protected or indeed were being infringed or adversely affected by the action or inaction of a relevant authority.

Once again the area for which we received most complaints was education. These varied from educational provision, school placement, school transport, bullying and special educational need.

An evaluation of casework was once again carried out. This evaluation is completed via completed evaluation forms from clients. All clients receive an evaluation form once their case is closed. Unfortunately we received returned completed forms in 38 cases. Of these 38 cases 33 contained positive feedback and 5 were negative this represents an 85% positive feedback rate. However it should be noted that all 5 negative returns were related to the limitations of our remit and not how cases

were dealt with. This highlights the need for our legislation to be reviewed to remove blockages to our work and allow us to deal with a wider range of enquiries. The low number of evaluation forms returned was a disappointment and has led us to review the form and amend it to hopefully make it more client friendly and receive a higher rate of returns.

During the 2013-14 business year NICCY once again intervened in a number of legal cases to highlight child rights issues. One of these is at the level of the European Court of Human Rights in respect of the right to education. Others were carried out in the High Court in respect of the right to privacy and the Court of Appeal in respect of the duty of a Trust to a child in need.

NICCY also funded a number of legal matters, in line with our legal funding criteria during the business year. NICCY currently has two interventions before the European Court of Human Rights on which we are awaiting judgement.

4. Participation and the Voice of Our Children and Young People

Promoting participation and the 'voice' of children and young people continued to be a vital element of NICCY's work. We do this on a national strategic level and on an operational level (through participation screening our work and engagement with the NICCY Youth Panel (NYP)).

We updated our Children and Young People Engagement Guidelines to guide how children and young people, including the NYP, support the work of the Commissioner and the office in the outworking of her functions and duties and in line with as defined by Corporate and Business objectives.

To co-incide with a new recruitment programme, the Youth Panel reflected not only the needs of NICCY and the fulfilment of the Business Plan but also the interests and experience of the young people. With this in mind the following themed sub-groups were developed:

- Participation;
- Corporate and NICCY Events;
- Campaigning; and
- Communication.

The engagement of young people is project driven and largely based on the fulfilment of our Business Plan objectives. Participation screening will indicate the need for engagement with children and / or young people at the earliest possible stage.

Over the year the NYP have been involved in influencing our work by:

- Presenting an overview of their work to the visiting Icelandic Children's Commissioner;
- Sitting on interview panels for six NICCY posts;
- Hosting, delivering presentations and providing general support and advice for NICCY's Annual Conference; Children's Rights; Past, Present and Future;
- Providing advice to the Chair of the Independent Child Sexual Exploitation Inquiry
- Developing campaign strategies to support the inclusion of under 18s in the proposal Goods, Facilities and Services anti-discrimination
- Supporting the Commissioner and staff at events such as Belfast Pride.

Participation Awards

This year the NYP completed a review and evaluation of the Awards programme to date and set into motion plans for the next programme

Following on from the successful delivery of previous two Commissioner's Participation Awards programmes, and recognising that engaging in positive participation processes takes time; the Awards will now be run on a biennial basis from 2014/15.

Participation Policy Statement of Intent (PPSI)

Of 12 Government Departments, 11 have endorsed NICCY's 'Participation Policy Statement of Intent' (PPSI). However, all 12 departments completed NICCY's follow-up 'Participation Review' questionnaire.

Analysis of the questionnaire responses highlighted both positive practice and areas where there were gaps in good participative practice. There was commonality in these gaps within all departments, for example levels of children and young people's direct involvement on policy development, impact evaluation and terms of reference for Children's Champions. NICCY has provided feedback to each department - highlighting positive actions as well as areas for improvement. This feedback was positively acknowledged by 10 of the 12 departments.

An additional 29 public bodies have endorsed the PPSI including 14 local councils (exceeding our Business Plan target by 14%), four health and social care trusts, four public education bodies and two public justice bodies.

Participation Research



NICCY has found, in many cases, the process of developing policies, strategies and legislation has been extremely protracted, and the process of taking account of NICCY's advice has been very unclear. Moreover, on

reviewing this advice provided, there are common themes, particularly in relation to failures to implement children's rights.

NICCY's 'Barriers to Effective Government Delivery for Children in Northern Ireland' report (Nov 2011), examined these recurring themes, and identified barriers to the development of policies and legislation that will deliver effectively for children and young people. The report provides an analysis of how government is falling short in implementing the UNCRC, including promoting the participation of children and young people to ensure they have a say in the decision making processes on matters that affect their lives.

Building on this report, and in the absence of government having a specific policy or structures in place to ensure that children and young people are involved in having a say in decisions that affect their lives, NICCY has been undertaking a series of initiatives to move this forward including the development of the PPSI, Commissioner's Participation Awards and the Participation Review Questionnaire (see above).

Having identified gaps after analysis of the Participation Review Questionnaire, NICCY commissioned further research to evidence the impact of direct participation with children and young people in the

development of departmental policies, strategies, legislation and services. Feedback from government departments indicates that consultation with children and young people has had a direct impact on the development of policies, strategies, legislation and services. This research aimed to probe deeper into this feedback and identify what processes in policy, strategic, legislative and service development, are used to track and incorporate how children and young people's input and information is actually used and how is this evidence recorded; what methods are used; how children and young people receive feedback and how is change or impact measured/evidenced.

At the time of writing the recommendations of the report are being considered by NICCY to prepare our next steps.

5. Impact and Corporate Performance

Review of Legislation

In our previous business year NICCY provided a Report under Article 24 of our legislation on the review of our legislation. We have since met with a representative of OFMDFM (our sponsor body) to discuss this and await their response to same. This Report highlighted a number of amendments to the legislation which the Commissioner considers necessary to remove obstacles to our work and maximise the impact of the organisation.

Brand Review

As reported last year, NICCY undertook a landscape review of the Commissioner's 'brand' which recommended updating and a 'strengthening' our corporate identity. We have taken forward these recommendations this year. Central to this was retaining and then refreshing the main elements of the existing brand, with the addition of a new strap line to make it clearer 'what NICCY is

about'. This approach very much builds on existing awareness levels, and is an evolution rather than starting from scratch. The new brand was then rolled out across our range of awareness raising materials and resources.

Corporate Governance

Senior Management Team

NICCY has a Senior Management Team (SMT) comprised of the Chief Executive and the Heads of Legal and Investigations, Policy and Research and Communications and Participation. SMT has clearly defined terms of reference and conduct meetings on a regular basis, working to realise corporate and business organisational objectives in line with the legislative remit and function of the office. The Senior Management team is comprised of five female members of staff. Across the organisation NICCY's employs 24 staff: 7 male and 17 female.

Audit and Risk Committee

NICCY has an established Audit and Risk Committee, which is an independent advisory committee with no executive functions. The committee provides an independent oversight function to our work, and supports the Commissioner in discharging her role in relation to managing risk, internal control and corporate governance. This is managed by carrying out an independent appraisal of these areas and advising on the adequacy of procedures and processes in place and assurances received.

The committee normally meets four times a year. The agenda and papers are circulated to members before meetings and minutes are taken of the committee's discussions, decisions and actions. Thanks are due to the outgoing committee

comprised since June 2010 of the Chair, Mr Bob McCann, and members Ms Danielle McWall and Ms Julie Erskine. Our new incoming ARC Committee comprises of Julie Erskine rejoining the Committee as the new Chair and new members, Mr Joe Campbell and Mr JP Irvine. We are delighted to welcome them on board.

Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legislative - 'PESTEL' Context

Political context

NICCY's work with the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly has continued, required as we are to keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of law, practice and services as they impact upon children and young people. In relation to the Executive's Programme for Government (PfG), we will continue to monitor Government's implementation of this over the lifetime of the Assembly, now extended to 2016, challenging Government when legislation, policy or services are inadequate or ineffective.

We have/will maintain our positive working relationships with individual committees of the Northern Ireland Assembly, to ensure mutual understanding of key issues affecting children and young people.

We have continued constructive working relationships with the Commissioners in England, Scotland, and Wales, as well as that with the Children's Ombudsman in Ireland. We are members of BINOCC. This group meets independently but is also a sub-committee of ENOC, of which we are a member. Further information about the role of this group can be obtained on its website www.ombudsnet.org.

Economic context

Given this ongoing period of economic recession and plans to reduce public sector expenditure, we are aware of growing concerns about frontline children's services. We will continue to monitor very closely the potential impact of such cuts to ensure that provision to the most vulnerable groups of children in Northern Ireland is protected. Child Poverty continues to impact upon the life opportunities and outcomes for our children and young people. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child agree that poverty is one of the main reasons children and young people do not always realise their rights. We will continue to work closely with OFMDFM to make sure the 'level of resource' ensures NICCY is 'fit for purpose' and enabled to deliver on agreed priorities. We had also been working with other OFMDFM sponsored Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) to identify and implement efficiencies and cost savings through closer collaboration and sharing of services.

Social context

Reducing social exclusion is, as with many in NI, a priority for NICCY. Arising for example from poverty, sectarianism, racism, heterosexism and/or discrimination against those living with a disability, which is a significant reality for some of our children and young people. This requires us to ensure that consistent approaches to equality and human rights protections are our 'key drivers'. We will continue to work with our partners in the various Human Rights and Equality bodies, here and externally, to promote social inclusion.

This year NICCY has continued to work against the demonisation and/or negative stereotyping of children and young people, with our colleagues and NICCY's Youth Panel, in support of UN Committee's 2008 concluding observations and recommendations.

Technological context

Internally NICCY is progressing a new Management Information System (MIS) which will be more 'fit for purpose' as the needs and demands on all ALBs require accurate reporting and disaggregation of data to inform 'trend analysis' and to identify gaps and emerging issues. It is hoped this will be finalised and operational in the next business year.

Externally NICCY is aware of the growing plethora of online social media and networking sites. We had therefore commissioned an 'online communications review' for NICCY to address these challenges and utilise the opportunities presented by such developments. These are in process of implementation. We appreciate that our children and young people, as well as adults, continue to engage with these new technologies, shaping how they engage and interact with each other and wider society.

As always our priority is to ensure, as far as possible, that children and young people are safeguarded and protected. We recognise also that there can sometimes be a disparity between adult and young people's understanding/use of such media. Therefore we will work with relevant agencies and experts in this area, to incorporate recommended safeguards / protections into our policies and procedures and use of same.

Environmental context

NICCY is aware that we operate in a complex environment, much of which has been highlighted already. We will continue to be aware of the various 'environmental factors', financial, political, social, and indeed physical, which impact on our work and assess risk accordingly. We recognise that it is good practice for us to ensure effective controls within and across the organisation.

NICCY will always strive to ensure openness, transparency and accountability as we work towards 'Safeguarding and Promoting the Rights and Best Interests of children and young people'.

Sustainability Report

Due to the size and nature of the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland, there is limited scope to promote sustainability in comparison with larger NDPBs and central government departments.

The key activities in which the Commissioner contributes to sustainability is through recycling, for example:

- Paper – the majority of waste paper is shredded and recycled;
- Printer cartridges - after use are returned to the manufacturers for recycling.

Furthermore, the Commissioner has appointed a representative to participate in the Equality Commission's own Energy Group. Through this working group the sustainability measures and procedures introduced by the Equality Commission are disseminated and adopted by the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland in order to promote greener and more energy efficient ways of working.

Legislative Context

NICCY was established by the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. The Order outlines NICCY's functions, duties and powers. The Commissioner's duties and powers are set out in the Establishing Order and may be grouped under three main areas as follows:

- Promoting Children's and Young People's Rights – in promoting rights, the Commissioner must communicate effectively with children and young people and their parents/guardians/carers and must raise awareness of her functions, location of her office and how she may be contacted. She is also required to seek the views of children and young people in her work.
- Advising Government on the Rights and Best Interests of children and young people – both in response to requests from Government and proactively as the Commissioner may determine. The Commissioner bases her work on an evidential base whether through research and/or matters brought to her attention. The Commissioner has the power to undertake service reviews, general inquiries, research or investigations into issues where she believes children and young people's rights are being adversely affected.
- Addressing Breaches of Rights / Complaints and/or taking Legal Action – the Commissioner can deal with individual complaints from children and young people, or their parents / guardians / carers about any services from 'relevant authorities' that impact upon those under 18 years of age or under the age of 21 for those with a disability or who are 'care experienced'.

Other key areas of legislation, proposed legislation, policies and strategies as well as international recommendations such as concluding comments / general comments from the United Nations' Committee reports, will have a major influence on the lives of children and young people within Northern Ireland. These are all areas 'kept under review' as statutorily required in terms of their 'adequacy and effectiveness'.

Review of Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland

OFMDFM is required, as detailed within NICCY's Management Statement and Financial Memorandum, to commission a comprehensive review of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland every three years. The next Review of the Office was intended to have been conducted during the 2013-14 business year however OFMDFM were unsuccessful in appointing a supplier and the review is now expected to be conducted during the 2014-15 business year.

Research Reports 2013-14: A Summary

One of the key ways of gathering evidence to inform NICCY's advice to government on issues affecting children's rights and best interests, is through conducting or commissioning research. Over 2013-14 NICCY launched four research reports, each with a set of focused recommendations.

- Goods, Facilities and Services (GFS)



Children's Budgeting in NI - An Exploratory Study

Shared Education - Views of Children and Young People



By their side and on their side - Reviewing the evidence for guardianship for separated children in NI



Domestic, National and International Dimensions

NICCY has continued to work towards strengthening children's rights through BINOCC, ENOC, through the Council of Europe (CoE) and the United Nations (UN).

United Nations

Engagement has included submissions to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on Children's Right to Health, UNCRC General Comment 15 on Article 24: and disseminated it to a range of key Health and Social Care stakeholders. Work is also being taken forward on General Comment 14 on Article 3, 'Best Interests' principle: work and on General Comment 17 on Article 31, 'Right to play...': where NICCY will be contributing to upcoming events in the next business year, involving OFMDFM and Playboard and others.

NICCY has also engaged at this level in relation to its annual event in November (*see earlier*) when we had Kirsten Sandberg Member (now Chair) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child as our keynote speaker.

European Network of Commissioners

Contributions and information on children's rights related issues have also been provided to ENOC members on a range of issues including:

- Vetting and barring;
- Mental health;
- Physical punishment; and the
- 2012 ENOC Report on Youth Justice.

NICCY has also ensured we disseminated information / recommendations by ENOC to NI stakeholders as and when we received them.

Our work through European Network of Youth Advisors (ENYA) continues following

work with young people involved in youth justice / care / custody settings.

Council of Europe

NICCY continues to monitor implementation of its 'Participation recommendations' by members and took part in a high level conference on 'Child Poverty and Social Inclusion' organised by one of Northern Ireland's three MEPs, this also entails ongoing liaison with colleagues in Brussels. Following on the briefing to CoE Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the 1st year of this corporate plan, (as part of its UK country visit regarding the first round evaluation of the implementation of the CoE Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings) NICCY is taking forward work on 'separated children' (see *earlier*).

British Irish Network of Ombudsman and Commissioners

Quarterly meetings are held on a rotational basis by BINOCC members and opportunities for collaborative working is promoted. These include:

Input in relation to children's and young people's rights and legislative developments in each jurisdiction (most recently NICCY's Annual Event);

Joint reporting of UK Commissioners in relation to UK State Party Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;

RCPCH Health Care standards in secure care;

Immigration and asylum matters, particularly concerning separated children having provided joint evidence to the JCHR Inquiry on Separated Children earlier this year; and

Joint delegations of UK Commissioners in relation to a range of 'common issues of concern' e.g. welfare reform proposals and the impact on child poverty.

Commissioner's Concluding Remarks

As we enter our 10th Anniversary Year, it is increasingly apparent that the evolving context in which we have been, and indeed will be working, was and will be, challenging - not least due to the impacts of economic recession.

Now more than ever it is vital that there is a strong voice for, and indeed from, our children and young people, particularly those who are most marginalised, disaffected and/or vulnerable, who will hold Government and others to account on how they deliver for/to them.

I and those within my office continue to commit ourselves to being that strong voice and to using our resources effectively to champion the rights and best interests of children and young people with Government/Government Agencies and to work with public legislators, policy makers and stakeholders in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to ensure that children and young people can live the safe, healthy and fulfilled lives we all wish to see across our society.



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
20th October 2014



REMUNERATION REPORT

REMUNERATION REPORT -

Remuneration Policy

The remuneration of the Commissioner and the Chief Executive is approved by the Minister for Finance and Personnel following independent advice from the Review Body on Senior Salaries. Further information about the work of the Review Body can be found at <http://www.ome.uk.com>.

The Director of Equality and Strategy Directorate in the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister assesses the performance of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, whilst the performance of the Chief Executive is assessed by the Commissioner for Children and Young People, using the formal appraisal system adopted by the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The remuneration of senior civil servants is set by the Minister for Finance and Personnel. The Minister approved a restructured SCS pay settlement broadly in line with the Senior Salaries Review Board report which he commissioned in 2010. The commitment to a Pay and Grading Review for SCS was the second phase of the equal pay settlement approved by the Executive.

Service Contracts

The appointment of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is made by the First Minister and deputy First Minister under Article 5 of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (NI) Order 2003, and in accordance with the recruitment code of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The terms and conditions are as set out in Schedule 2 to the Commissioner for Children and Young People (NI) Order 2003.

Patricia Lewsley was appointed as Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland on 8th January 2007 for a four-year period. On 8th January 2011 she was reappointed for a further four year period.

The other members of the Senior Management Team are direct employees of the Commissioner; the appointments, which are permanent, are analogous to grades in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) with terms and conditions that are very similar but not necessarily identical to those that apply to the NICS.

Salary and Pension Entitlement (Audited)

The following sections provide details of the remuneration and pension interests of the Commissioner and Senior Management.

Commissioner	2013-14				2012-13			
	Salary £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	Pension Benefits** (to nearest £1000)	Total (to nearest £1000)	Salary £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	Pension Benefits** (to nearest £1000)	Total (to nearest £1000)
P Lewsley (Commissioner)	80 - 85	0	21	100-105	80 - 85	0	24	100-105

General Management	2013-14					2012-13				
	Salary £'000	Bonus Payments £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	Pension Benefits** (to nearest £10000)	Total (to nearest £1000)	Salary (to nearest £'000)	Bonus Payments £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	Pension Benefits** (to nearest £1000)	Total (to nearest £1000)
M McCafferty (Chief Executive)	60 - 65	0	0	24	85-90	60 - 65	0	0	26	85-90
M Kinghan (Head of Communications and Participation)	50 – 55	0	0	54	105-110	50 – 55	0	0	9	55-60
A Tennant (Head of Policy & Research)	45 – 50	0	0	0	45-50	45 – 50	0	0	0	45-50
M Simpson (Head of Legal & Investigations)	55 – 60	0	0	20	75-80	50 – 55	0	0	21	70-75
Band of Highest Paid Staff Member's Total Remuneration	80 - 85					80 - 85				
Median Total Remuneration	29,554					28,433				
Ratio	2.8					2.8				

** The value of pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) plus (the real increase in any lump sum) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increases exclude increases due to inflation or any increase or decreases due to a transfer of pension rights.

Salary

'Salary' includes gross salary; overtime; reserved rights to London weighting or London allowances; recruitment and retention allowances; private office allowances and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation and any gratia payments.

This report is based on payments made by the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland and thus recorded in these accounts.

Benefits in Kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by the HM Revenue & Customs as a taxable emolument. The Commissioner and other members of the Senior Management Team did not receive any benefits in kind during the year ended 31st March 2014.

Bonuses

Bonuses are based on performance levels attained and are made as part of the appraisal process. There were no bonuses reported in 2013-14 and there were no bonuses reported for 2012-13.

Pension Entitlement (Audited)

	Accrued as at pension at age 60 31/3/14 and related lump sum	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at age 60	CETV at 31/3/14	CETV at 31/3/13	Real increase in CETV	Employer contribution to partnership pension account
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	Nearest £100
Commissioner						
P Lewsley	0 – 5 No lump sum	0 – 2.5 No lump sum	67	36	19	0
General Management						
M Kinghan (Head of Communications and Participation)	25 – 30 No lump sum	2.5-5 No lump sum	480	408	46	0
M Simpson (Head of Legal & Investigations)	5 – 10 No lump sum	0 – 2.5 No lump sum	66	46	12	0
M McCafferty (Chief Executive)	0 – 5 No lump sum	0 – 2.5 No lump sum	38	19	13	0

Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Pension arrangements -

Pension benefits are provided through the Northern Ireland Civil Service pension arrangements which are administered by Civil Service Pensions (CSP). Staff in post prior to 30 July 2007 may be in one of three statutory based 'final salary' defined benefit arrangements (classic, premium, and classic plus). These arrangements are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. From April 2011 pensions payable under classic, premium, and classic plus are increased annually in line with changes in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). Prior to 2011, pensions were increased in line with changes in the Retail Prices Index (RPI). New entrants joining on or after 1 October 2002 and before 30 July 2007 could choose between membership of premium or joining a good quality 'money purchase' stakeholder arrangement with a significant employer contribution (partnership pension account). New entrants joining on or after 30 July 2007 are eligible for membership of the nuvos arrangement or they can opt for a partnership pension account. Nuvos is a 'Career Average Revalued Earnings' (CARE) arrangement in which members accrue pension benefits at a percentage rate of annual pensionable earnings throughout the period of scheme membership. The current rate is 2.3%. CARE pension benefits are increased annually in line with increases in the CPI. For 2014, public service pensions will be increased by 2.7% for pensions which began before 8 April 2013. Pensions which began after 8 April 2013 will be increased proportionately.

Employee contributions are determined by the level of pensionable earnings. The employee contribution rates for the 2014/15 year are as follows:

Members of classic:

Annual pensionable earnings (full-time equivalent basis)	2014 Contribution rate before tax relief
Up to £15,000	1.50%
£15,001-£21,000	3.00%
£21,001-£30,000	4.48%
£30,001-£50,000	5.27%
£50,001-£60,000	6.06%
Over £60,000	6.85%

Members of premium, nuvos and classic plus:

Annual pensionable earnings (full-time equivalent basis)	2014 Contribution rate before tax relief
Up to £15,000	3.50%
£15,001-£21,000	5.00%
£21,001-£30,000	6.48%
£30,001-£50,000	7.27%
£50,001-£60,000	8.06%
Over £60,000	8.85%

Benefits in classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of pensionable salary for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years' pension is payable on retirement. For premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike classic, there is no automatic lump sum (but members may give up (commute) some of their pension to provide a lump sum). Classic plus is essentially a variation of premium, but with benefits in respect of service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per classic.

The partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3% and 12.5% (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.8% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

The accrued pension quoted is the pension the member is entitled to receive when they reach pension age, or immediately on ceasing to be an active member of the scheme if they are at or over pension age. Pension age is 60 for members of classic, premium, and classic plus and 65 for members of nuvos. Further details about the CSP arrangements can be found at the website www.dfpni.gov.uk/civilservicepensions-ni

Cash Equivalent Transfer Values

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures, and from 2003-04 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the CSP arrangements. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETVs are calculated in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations and do not take account of any actual or potential benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Compensation for Loss of Office

There were no such cases during the 2013-14 business year.

Signed by:



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
20th October 2014



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES -

Under Schedule 2 11 (1) of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister has directed the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland to prepare for each financial year a statement of accounts in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland and of its total comprehensive expenditure, changes in taxpayers' equity and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the *Government Financial Reporting Manual* and in particular to:

- Observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- Make judgments and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- State whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the *Government Financial Reporting Manual* have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Accounting Officer of the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister has designated the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland as Accounting Officer of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's assets, are set out in *Managing Public Money NI* published by the Department of Finance and Personnel.

Signed by:



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
20th October 2014



GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland (NICCY) is a Corporation Sole. The role was established under The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. The Office of the Commissioner is an executive non departmental public body funded by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

The Accounting Officer of the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) has designated me as the Accounting Officer for NICCY. In this role I am personally responsible for propriety and regularity in the management of public funds for which I have charge and for the day to day operations and management of NICCY.

The relationship between NICCY and OFMDFM is set out in NICCY's Management Statement and Financial Memorandum (MSFM) as agreed with OFMDFM and DFP. The MSFM also sets out my role and responsibilities as Accounting Officer which include:

- Establish, in agreement with OFMDFM, the Commissioner's corporate and business plans in support of the Department's wider strategic aims and current Programme for Government objectives and targets;
- Ensure compliance with the Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy;
- Ensure that a system of risk management is maintained to inform decisions on financial and operational planning and to assist in achieving objectives and targets;
- Ensure that adequate internal management and financial controls are maintained by the Commissioner, including effective measures against fraud and theft; and
- Sign the accounts and be responsible for ensuring that proper records are kept relating to the accounts and that the accounts are properly prepared and presented in accordance with any directions issued by the Ministers, OFMDFM, or DFP.

There have been no Ministerial Directions given during the period under review.

Framework / Instruments of Governance

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI).

The system of governance, internal control and risk management I have put in place is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide high and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

As Accounting Officer I retain ultimate responsibility for the organisation's system of internal control, providing clear direction and ensuring that effective risk management and governance processes are embedded throughout the organisation and that they are regularly reviewed. I am however supported by my Chief Executive Officer, Senior Management Team and Audit and Risk Committee.

I have appointed an Audit and Risk Committee who take responsibility for oversight of the risk management process. They endorse the organisation's risk management strategy/policies and review the corporate risk register to provide challenge and advice in a non executive capacity. Attendance of members for meetings held in the period under review is as follows:

- Julie Erskine (Chair) 4 out of 4
- JP Irvine (Member) 4 out of 4
- Joe Campbell (Member) 3 out of 4

The Audit and Risk Committee members undertake an annual evaluation of the committees effectiveness and performance. The Terms of Reference for the Audit and Risk Committee were reviewed in March 2013 and are to be reviewed again in quarter 3 of 2014.

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is required to meet quarterly in line with its Terms of Reference. In July 2013 the 3 current members were appointed and ARC then met once per quarter (and one additional meeting), which fitted well with its work programme ensuring that all issues are dealt with on a timely basis. Meetings were held 2 July 2013, 2 October 2013, 5 December 2013 and 19 March 2014.

The Chief Executive of NICCY has delegated authority for day to day staff and financial management. The Chief Executive reports directly to me and is performance managed via regular 1-2-1 meetings and an annual appraisal process. The Chief Executive ensures appropriate monitoring and management of significant risks identified by SMT and oversees risk management procedures.

The Senior Management Team comprises the Commissioner, Chief Executive, Head of Communications and Participation, Head of Legal and Investigations and Head of Policy and Research. The Senior Management Team is responsible for exercising management of the Commissioner's functions and activities, leading on and delivering my strategic vision, policies and services to the public and other stakeholders. Terms of Reference have for SMT been agreed and have been updated during the period under review. The Senior Management Team has formal meetings twice every month that are chaired by the Chief Executive. These meetings are the forum where consensus is sought, however ultimate decision making responsibility resides with myself. No strategically important decisions can be made without my approval.

It is the role of the Chief Executive to line manage Heads of Department effectively, to ensure that their respective outputs are of a high standard. This is achieved via the performance management and evaluation framework that is in operation, regular 1-2-1 meetings, quarterly assurance statements provided by the Heads of Departments and the annual appraisal process. I am content that these systems and processes are working effectively and as a result I am satisfied that the quality of data and information provided by my Senior Management Team, upon which I base my decisions, is of a high standard.

The Senior Management Team meet formally with members of their own respective teams to steer and lead on strategically important areas of work at a departmental level.

A “Whistle Blowing” Policy is in place. This policy has been developed to support staff, including myself, in raising any serious concerns they may have, and provides a reporting framework and reassurance to staff that they will not be victimised as a result of using this policy.

Finally as Accounting Officer I am cognisant of the document “Corporate Governance Code in central government departments: Code of good practice.” In discharging my duties in relation governance within NICCY I have been in full compliance with the guidance in the period under review.

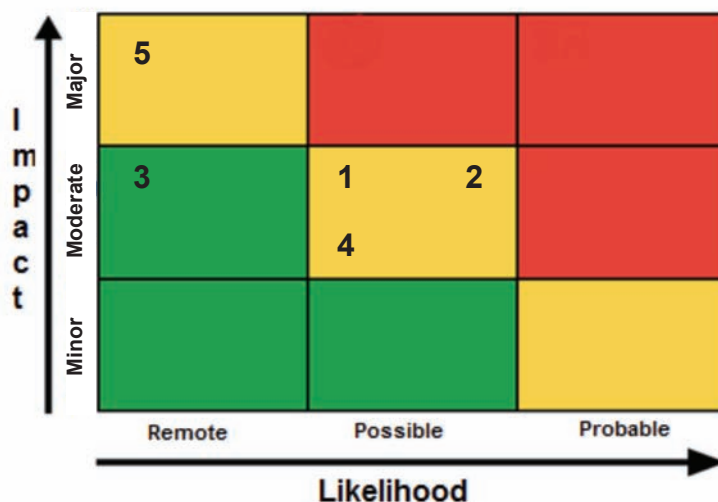
Capacity to Handle Risk

As Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland, I have developed a robust structure and system for overseeing the risk management process within NICCY and for ensuring that objectives and risks have been identified alongside a range of organisational controls to manage and mitigate these risks. All members of the senior management team and other staff members have recently been trained in risk management best practice by CIPFA to identify and assess risks which might impact on corporate or business plan objectives.

A Risk Management Policy and newly formatted Corporate Risk Register is in place to define NICCY’s system for managing risk. The corporate register includes for each identified risk, the risk description, level of inherent risk and relating weighting, mitigating controls documented, level of residual risk, and further mitigating controls as well as highlighted a date of assessment and risk lead officer for each risk identified. NICCY’s Audit and Risk Committee has oversight of the initiatives taken by executive officers to promote risk management throughout the organisation. Risk management is a standing agenda item at senior management team meetings and I meet monthly with members of my senior management team to review and update NICCY’s risk management processes and the corporate risk register. Alongside the corporate risk register, each department within NICCY has recently developed in a new format its own specific risk register which is reviewed on a quarterly basis with guidance provided by the Finance Officer. Risk Management is a regular agenda item at departmental team meetings. The departmental risk registers link directly with the corporate risk register and business plan. The corporate risk register details the following key business risks:

1. **Corporate Governance:** Failure to maintain and further develop best practice governance arrangements to maximise efficient, effective and economical use of NICCY resources in order to deliver corporate objectives. Failure to deliver business objectives highlighted within the 2014-15 Business Plan.
2. **Systems of Control:** Failure to ensure effective systems, internal controls and ICT protocols are in place and are being implemented, including business continuity and disaster recovery arrangements. Failure to ensure systems are adequate in relation to data protection guidelines. Failure of systems to adequately protect against Fraud or to identify cases of fraudulent activity.
3. **Compliance:** Failure to adequately manage necessary changes iro required savings / cuts to annual budget. Failure to comply with legislation in relation to issues such as Equality.
4. **Performance Management:** Failure to deliver objectives due to the absence of staff, under performance, industrial action and/or failure to recruit and retain appropriately skilled staff. Failure to deliver on budget. Failure to deliver on procurement/ tenders.
5. **Corporate Identity:** Reputational damage due to the lack of understanding in the role of NICCY and the services it delivers.

When plotted on to the heat map according to residual controlled risk, these risks result in an organisational risk profile as follows:



No additional risks were identified during the 2013-14 financial year.

Specific controls in place and further mitigating actions required are contained within NICCY's Corporate Risk Register.

I report on risk management to OFMDFM on a quarterly basis and keep OFMDFM apprised of any changes and/or developments to the Corporate Risk Register. OFMDFM has also designated a liaison officer who attends each quarterly meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. I confirm that I have reviewed the governance, internal control and risk management arrangements which are operational within NICCY.

My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by:

- The work of the Internal Auditors as part of the annual internal audit cycle;
- The work of the Northern Ireland Audit Office and comments made by them in their Report to Those Charged with Governance;
- The work of the Audit and Risk Committee including observations made and advice given at ARC meetings throughout the year; and
- The quality, timeliness and relevance of outputs from the Chief Executive and Heads of Department within the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland throughout the year;
- The progress observed in the implementation of recommendations stemming from various reports throughout the year and subsequent analysis of observed progress against expected.

The Internal Audit annual assurance report in respect of the year ended 31 March 2014 provided an overall level of assurance of “Satisfactory” in relation to the adequacy of the systems of control in place within the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland and their operation throughout the period under review. The areas under review for year 2013-14 were as follows:

Audit Area	Assurance Rating
IT, Information Security, Business Continuity, Data Protection and Freedom of Information	Satisfactory
Procurement and Contract Management	Satisfactory
Financial Systems	Satisfactory

Whilst there have been no significant issues arising in the period under review. An action plan has been drawn up to address all weaknesses identified during the audit processes and I have given priority to improving the internal control environment and will ensure that all recommendations are implemented accordingly. Updates on the implementation of audit recommendations are provided to the Department via quarterly Stewardship Statements. The Stewardship Statement addresses a range of governance and control areas across the organisation including progression on internal/external audit recommendations as well as risk management reporting. There is also a section within the statement where Direct Award Contracts (DACs) are reported. Stewardship Statements are completed and forwarded on to OFMDFM at the end of each quarter.

Review of my own effectiveness

In order to review and ensure my own effectiveness as Accounting Officer I go through an annual appraisal process with the Director of Equality and Strategy Directorate within the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. This meeting provides an opportunity for the Department to raise any issues in relation to my performance and if necessary put in place arrangements to address any problems. No issues were raised in my most recent appraisal.

Furthermore, I have quarterly accountability meetings with officials from the Department. In preparation for these meetings a checklist of NICCY's governance and risk management arrangements will have been completed to inform discussions at these meetings. During the four meetings held in the period under review there were no exceptions or issues noted.



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
20th October 2014



THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland for the year ended 31 March 2014 under the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. These comprise the Statements of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Financial Position, Cash Flows, Changes in Taxpayers' Equity and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

Respective responsibilities of the Accounting Officer and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. My responsibility is to examine, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my certificate.

I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on financial statements

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's affairs as at 31 March 2014 and of the net expenditure, cash flows and changes in taxpayers' equity for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion:

- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's directions made under the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003; and
- the information given in the Director's Report and Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with Department of Finance and Personnel's guidance.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.



KJ Donnelly
Comptroller and Auditor General
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1EU

23 October 2014



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NET EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014**

	Notes	2013-14 £	2012-13 £
Expenditure			
Staff Salaries and Commissioner's Fees	2	(1,040,452)	(1,065,837)
Operating Costs	3	(237,924)	(275,924)
Programme Costs	4	(123,127)	(128,271)
Depreciation & Amortisation	3	(18,255)	(103,059)
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	3	(41,937)	0
Net Expenditure		(1,461,695)	(1,573,091)
Other comprehensive net expenditure			
Items that will not be reclassified to net operating costs:			
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of Property Plant and Equipment		(2,930)	2,869
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of Intangibles		102	71
Total Comprehensive Net Expenditure		(1,464,523)	(1,570,151)

The notes on pages 62 - 77 form part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2014

	Notes	2014 £	2013 £
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant & equipment	5	24,451	85,425
Intangible assets	6	12,951	4,198
Total non-current assets		<u>37,402</u>	<u>89,623</u>
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables	8	2,056	1,331
Other current assets	8	12,641	15,800
Cash & cash equivalents	9	147,158	96,661
Total current assets		<u>161,855</u>	<u>113,792</u>
Total Assets		<u>199,257</u>	<u>203,415</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	(22,141)	(24,755)
Other liabilities	10	(97,137)	(81,158)
Total current liabilities		<u>(119,278)</u>	<u>(105,913)</u>
Non-current assets plus net current assets less current liabilities		<u>79,979</u>	<u>97,502</u>
Assets less liabilities		<u>79,979</u>	<u>97,502</u>
Taxpayers' Equity			
General Reserve		67,455	82,150
Revaluation Reserve		12,524	15,352
		<u>79,979</u>	<u>97,502</u>

The financial statements on pages 57 - 61 were approved by the Commissioner:

The notes on pages 62 - 77 form part of these accounts.

Signed by



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner and Accounting Officer
20th October 2014

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

	Notes	2013-14 £	2012-13 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net deficit after interest		(1,461,695)	(1,573,091)
Adjustment for non-cash transactions:			
Depreciation & Amortisation	3	18,255	103,059
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	3	41,937	0
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	8	2,434	37,278
(Decrease)/increase in payables	10	13,365	(87,610)
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(1,385,704)	(1,520,364)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	5	0	(21,147)
Purchase of intangible assets	6	(10,799)	(3,388)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(10,799)	(24,535)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Grant-in-Aid received from OFMDFM		1,447,000	1,494,000
Net Financing		1,447,000	1,494,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period		50,497	(50,899)
Cash and Cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	9	96,661	147,560
Cash and Cash equivalents at the end of the period	9	147,158	96,661

The notes on pages 62 - 77 form part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN TAXPAYERS' EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

	Revaluation Reserve £	SoCNE Reserve £	Total Reserves £
Balance at 01 April 2012	12,412	161,241	173,653
Changes in Taxpayers' Equity 2012-13			
Grant-in-Aid received from Parent	0	1,494,000	1,494,000
Comprehensive Expenditure for the year	2,940	(1,573,091)	(1,570,151)
Movements in Reserves	2,940	(79,091)	(76,151)
Balance at 31 March 2013	15,352	82,150	97,502
Changes in Taxpayers' Equity 2013-14			
Grant-in-Aid received from Parent	0	1,447,000	1,447,000
Comprehensive Expenditure for the year	(2,828)	(1,461,695)	(1,464,523)
Movements in Reserves	(2,828)	(14,695)	(17,523)
Balance at 31 March 2014	12,524	67,455	79,979

The notes on pages 62 - 77 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

Statement of Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Schedule 2 11 (1) of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and in accordance with the 2013-14 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland. The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context.

Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The particular policies adopted by the Commissioner for Children and Young People are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material to the accounts.

1.1 Accounting Convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to account for the revaluation of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets.

1.2 Funding

The activities of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland are fully funded by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. Income from other sources is immaterial. Permission must be sought from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister before non-grant income can be applied to the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's activities. Non-grant income for which departmental approval to use is not forthcoming is surrendered to the Consolidated Fund.

Grant-in-Aid received, used to finance activities and expenditure which support the statutory and other objective of the Commissioner for Children and Young People are treated as financing. It is credited to the General Reserve because it is regarded as contributions from a controlling party.

1.3 Expenditure

All expenditure on goods and services fall within the ambit of the Grant-in-Aid and complies with the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland's Financial Memorandum and government purchasing requirements.

1.4 Property, Plant and Equipment

The property, plant and equipment additions are fully funded by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

The cost of all property, plant and equipment has been restated to reflect their current value using the relevant price indices at the year end. The revaluation surplus or loss, net of the corresponding adjustment to accumulated depreciation, is credited to the revaluation reserve.

A capitalisation threshold of £1,000 is applied. This is a change in accounting policy in accordance with IAS 8. (Prior year capitalisation threshold was £500)

1.5 Intangible Assets

The intangible asset additions are fully funded by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

The cost of all intangible assets has been restated to reflect their current value using the relevant price indices at the year end. The revaluation surplus or loss, net of the corresponding adjustment to accumulated depreciation, is credited to the revaluation reserve.

A capitalisation threshold of £1,000 is applied. This is a change in accounting policy in accordance with IAS 8. (Prior year capitalisation threshold was £500)

1.6 Depreciation and Amortisation

Depreciation and Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset evenly over its expected life as follows:

- Furniture and Fittings 10 years
- Fixtures 10 years
- Office Equipment 3 years
- IT Equipment 3 - 4 years
- Intangibles 3 - 4 years

1.7 Financial Instruments

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand.

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables do not carry any interest and are recognised and carried at the lower of their original invoiced value and recoverable amount. Provision is made when there is objective evidence that the asset is impaired. Balances are written off when the probability of recovery is assessed as being remote.

Trade and other payables

Trade payables are not interest bearing and are stated at their nominal value.

1.8 Pension Costs

Past and present employees are covered by the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI). The defined benefit scheme is unfunded and is non-contributory except in respect of dependants' benefits. The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland recognises the expected cost of these elements on a systematic and rational basis over the period during which it benefits from employees' services by payment to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) of amounts calculated on an accruing basis. Liability for payments of future benefits is a charge on the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI). In respect of the defined contribution schemes, the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland recognises the contributions payable for the year.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up-to-date actuarial valuation was carried out on 31 March 2010 and these details are available in the PCSPS (NI) resource accounts.

1.9 Value Added Tax

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is not registered for VAT.

1.10 Investments

The Commissioner does not undertake any investment activities.

1.11 Inventories

The value of inventories of consumables is immaterial and the Commissioner does not attribute a value for inventories in the accounts.

1.12 Operating Leases

Operating Lease costs are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure as incurred over the period of the lease.

1.13 Operating Segments

The Accounting Officer considers the Commissioner for Children and Young People as one operating unit in making decisions. Management information is generated on a holistic basis for the organisation.

1.14 Staff Costs

Under IAS19 Employee Benefits, all staff costs must be recorded as an expense as soon as the organisation is obliged to pay them. This includes the cost of any untaken annual leave and flexible time owed as at the year end.

1.15 Provisions

The Commissioner for Children and Young People makes provision for liabilities and charges where, at the Statement of Financial Position date, a legal or constructive liability exists (that is a present obligation from past events exists), where the transfer of economic benefits is probable and a reasonable estimate can be made. Where the time value of money is material, the provision is discounted to its present value.

1.16 Adoption of new and revised standards

Management has reviewed new accounting standards that have been issued but are not yet effective, nor adopted early for these accounts. Management consider that these are unlikely to have a significant impact on the accounts in the period of initial application.

2. Staff numbers and related costs (including Commissioner)

	2013-14	2012-13
	£	£
Commissioner Fees	108,750	108,430
Staff Salaries	931,702	957,407
	<u>1,040,452</u>	<u>1,065,837</u>

2(a) Commissioner Fees

	2013-14	2012-13
	£	£
Commissioner Fees	80,830	80,361
Social Security Costs	8,924	8,884
Pension Costs	18,995	19,185
	<u>108,749</u>	<u>108,430</u>

2(b) Staff Costs including Commissioners Fees

	2013-14			2012-13
	Total	Permanent	Other (Agency & seconded)	Total
	£	£	£	£
Wages and Salaries	820,940	810,788	10,152	845,379
Social Security Costs	68,530	68,530	0	68,720
Other Pension Costs	150,982	150,982	0	151,738
Total Net Costs	<u>1,040,452</u>	<u>1,030,300</u>	<u>10,152</u>	<u>1,065,837</u>

Pension Arrangements

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS(NI)) is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme but the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. A full actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2010. Details can be found in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation (www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk).

For 2013-14, employers' contributions of £150,982 were payable to the PCSPS(NI) (2012-13 £151,738) at one of three rates in the range 18.0 to 25 per cent (2012-13: 18.0 to 23.5 per cent) of pensionable pay, based on salary bands. The scheme's Actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation. A new valuation scheme based on data as at 31 March 2012 is currently being undertaken by the Actuary

to review employer contribution rates for the introduction of a new career average earning scheme from April 2015. From 2014-15, the rates will remain in the range 18% to 25%. The contribution rates are set to meet the cost of the benefits accruing during 2013-14 to be paid when the member retires, and not the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners.

The contribution rates reflect benefits as they are accrued, not when the costs are actually incurred, and reflect past experience of the scheme.

Employees can opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. No employees of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland took up this option.

No employees retired early on ill-health grounds during 2013-14.

The Commissioner is a member of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) on the same basis as all other members of staff. At 31 March 2014 the Commissioner has served 39 months of her second 4 year term. At the year-end she would have been entitled to compensation for premature loss of office amounting to the equivalent of 6 weeks gross salary.

2(c) Average Number of Persons Employed

The average number of whole-time equivalent persons employed during the year was as follows:

	Total	Permanent	2013-14	2012-13
	£	staff	Number	Number
			Other	
			(Agency &	Total
			seconded)	£
			£	
Commissioner	1	1	0	1
General	18	17.5	0.5	19.5
Management	4	4	0	4
	23	22.5	0.5	24.5

2.1 Reporting of Civil Service and Other compensation schemes – exit packages

There were no redundancy or other departure costs paid by NICCY for the year ending 31 March 2014.

3. Operating Costs

	2013-14	2012-13
	£	£
Rentals under operating leases	48,720	66,584
Service Charge	2,610	7,492
Rates	29,725	28,842
Electricity	9,425	9,944
Repairs	144	0
Travel & Subsistence	7,149	10,476
Staff Recruitment	3,257	7,278
Staff Training	13,508	13,137
Postage	2,301	1,774
Telephones	9,963	9,132
Hospitality	644	298
Audit – external	11,249	11,295
Insurance	285	689
Miscellaneous	8,796	7,975
Office Consumables	9,661	8,427
Annual Contracts	45,202	62,860
Legal Costs	600	1,332
Corporate Services	34,685	28,389
	<u>237,924</u>	<u>275,924</u>
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation & Amortisation	18,255	103,059
Transfer of Assets	41,937	0
	<u>298,116</u>	<u>378,983</u>

4. Programme Costs

	2013-14 £	2012-13 £
Communication & Participation	50,747	43,052
Legal & Investigations	32,758	35,567
Policy & Research	39,622	49,652
	<u>123,127</u>	<u>128,271</u>

5. Property, Plant & Equipment

	Information Technology	Office Equipment	Furniture	Fixtures	Total 2014
Cost or valuation	£	£	£	£	£
At 01 April 2013	140,609	40,258	112,272	822,020	1,115,159
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	0	0	0	(802,386)	(802,386)
Revaluation	(12,106)	(4,156)	(6,069)	(1,026)	(23,357)
At 31 March 2014	128,503	36,102	106,203	18,608	289,416
Depreciation					
At 01 April 2013	123,186	39,376	95,220	771,952	1,029,734
Charged in year	6,661	794	6,771	1,881	16,107
Transfers	0	0	0	(760,449)	(760,449)
Revaluation	(10,590)	(4,068)	(5,147)	(622)	(20,427)
At 31 March 2014	119,257	36,102	96,844	12,762	264,965
Net Book Value at 31/03/14	9,246	0	9,359	5,846	24,451
Net Book Value at 31/03/13	17,423	882	17,052	50,068	85,425
Asset financing:					
Owned	9,246	0	9,359	5,846	24,451
Financed Leased	0	0	0	0	0
On-balance sheet PFI contracts	0	0	0	0	0
Net book value at 31/03/14	9,246	0	9,359	5,846	24,451

During the year ended 31 March 2014, property, plant and equipment were restated to reflect their current value using the relevant price indices at the year end.

During the 2013-14 financial year, certain assets located at Millennium House, were transferred to the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS). NICCY was previously located in Millennium House and the assets were transferred from NICCY to VSS at their net book value of £41,937.

	Information Technology	Office Equipment	Furniture	Fixtures	Total 2013
Cost or valuation	£	£	£	£	£
At 01 April 2012	138,189	93,066	109,832	808,364	1,149,451
Additions	20,620	0	527	0	21,147
Disposals	(33,298)	(53,649)	0	0	(86,947)
Revaluation	15,098	841	1,913	13,656	31,508
At 31 March 2013	140,609	40,258	112,272	822,020	1,115,159

Depreciation

At 01 April 2012	134,634	91,309	82,555	677,943	986,441
Charged in year	7,289	883	11,227	82,202	101,601
Disposals	(33,298)	(53,649)	0	0	(86,947)
Revaluation	14,561	833	1,438	11,807	28,639
At 31 March 2013	123,186	39,376	95,220	771,952	1,029,734

Net Book Value at 31/03/13	17,423	882	17,052	50,068	85,425
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Net Book Value at 31/03/12	3,555	1,757	27,277	130,421	163,010
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Asset financing:

Owned	17,423	882	17,052	50,068	85,425
Financed Leased	0	0	0	0	0
On-balance sheet PFI contracts	0	0	0	0	0
Net book value at 31/03/13	17,423	882	17,052	50,068	85,425

6. Intangible Assets

	Information Technology Software	Software Licences	Total 2014
Cost or Valuation	£	£	£
At 01 April 2013	110,172	45,618	155,790
Additions	10,799	0	10,799
Disposals	0	0	0
Revaluation	2,702	1,119	3,821
At 31 March 2014	123,673	46,737	170,410
Amortisation			
At 01 April 2013	107,501	44,091	151,592
Charges in year	1,200	948	2,148
Disposals	0	0	0
Revaluations	2,637	1,082	3,719
At 31 March 2014	111,338	46,121	157,459
Net Book Value at 31 March 2014	12,335	616	12,951
Net Book Value at 31 March 2013	2,671	1,527	4,198
Asset financing:			
Owned	12,335	616	12,951
Financed Leased	0	0	0
Contracts	0	0	0
Net Book Value at 31 March 2014	12,335	616	12,951

During the year ended 31 March 2014, intangible assets were restated to reflect their current value using the relevant price indices at the year end.

Information	Software Technology Software	Total Licences	2014
Cost or Valuation	£	£	£
At 01 April 2012	104,736	42,825	147,561
Additions	2,000	1,388	3,388
Disposals	0	0	0
Revaluation	3,436	1,405	4,841
At 31 March 2013	110,172	45,618	155,790
Amortisation			
At 01 April 2012	103,436	41,928	145,364
Charges in year	671	787	1,458
Disposals	0	0	0
Revaluations	3,394	1,376	4,770
At 31 March 2013	107,501	44,091	151,592
Net Book Value at 31 March 2013	2,671	1,527	4,198
Net Book Value at 31 March 2012	1,300	897	2,197
Asset financing:			
Owned	2,671	1,527	4,198
Financed Leased	0	0	0
Contracts	0	0	0
Net Book Value at 31 March 2013	2,671	1,527	4,198

7. Financial Instruments

As the cash requirements of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) are met through Grant-in-Aid provided by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-public sector body. The majority of financial instruments relate to contracts to buy non-financial items in line with NICCY's expected purchase and usage requirements and NICCY is therefore exposed to little credit, liquidity or market risk.

8. Trade receivables and other current assets

a. Analysis by Type

	2013-14	2012-13
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Trade receivables	0	0
Other receivables	2,056	1,331
Prepayments	12,641	15,800
	<u>14,697</u>	<u>17,131</u>

Intra-Government Balances

	2013-14	2012-13
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Balances with other central government bodies	0	0
Balances with bodies external to government	14,697	17,131
	<u>14,697</u>	<u>17,131</u>

9. Cash and cash equivalents

	2013-14	2012-13
	£	£
Balance at 1 April	96,661	147,560
Net change in cash and cash equivalent balances	50,497	(50,899)
Balance at 31 March	<u>147,158</u>	<u>96,661</u>

The following balances at 31 March were held at:

Commercial banks and cash in hand	147,158	96,661
Balance at 31 March	<u>147,158</u>	<u>96,661</u>

10. Trade payables and other current liabilities

a. Analysis by Type

	2013-14	2012-13
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Taxation and social security	21,701	25,265
Trade payables	22,141	24,755
Accruals	75,436	55,893
	<u>119,278</u>	<u>105,913</u>

Note: 2012-13 comparative year figures for Taxation & Social Security as well as Accruals have been amended due to a reclassification of pension costs. Overall totals remain unchanged.

b. Intra-Government Balances

	2013-14	2012-13
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Balances with other central government agencies	11,345	13,295
Balances with bodies external to government	107,933	92,618
	<u>119,278</u>	<u>105,913</u>

11. Prior Year Adjustments

There were no prior year adjustments for year 2013-14.

12. Provisions for liabilities and charges

There were no provisions for liabilities and charges as at 31 March 2014 or as at 31 March 2013.

13. Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 31 March 2014 or as at 31 March 2013.

14.1 Commitments under Leases

There were no commitments under leases as at 31 March 2014 or as at 31 March 2013.

14.2 Finance Leases

There were no Finance Lease commitments as at 31 March 2014. Similarly, at 31 March 2013 there were no Finance Lease commitments.

15. Commitments under PFI Contracts

There were no PFI contracts as at 31 March 2014 or as at 31 March 2013.

16 Other financial commitments

There were no other financial commitments as at 31 March 2014 or as at 31 March 2013.

17. Contingent liabilities disclosed under IAS 37

There were no contingent liabilities as defined under IAS 37 as at 31 March 2014 or as at 31 March 2013.

18. Related Party Transactions

The Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). OFMDFM is regarded as a related party. During the year the Commissioner had various material transactions with OFMDFM (£1,447,000) and one other body for which OFMDFM is regarded as the parent body, the Equality Commission (£135,926).

In addition, the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland has had a small number of transactions with other government departments and other central government bodies.

During the year neither the Commissioner, members of the Audit and Risk Committee, Senior Management nor other related parties have undertaken any material transactions with the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

19. Events after the Statement of Financial Position Date

There were no events after the Statement of Financial Position date up to the date of approval of these accounts impacting upon the commission.

The Accounting Officer authorised these financial statements for issue on 23rd October 2014.

NOTES





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