

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0233_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

Schools funding ministerial correspondence

In relation to Ministerial correspondence (including electronic correspondence):

- a. Since the 2014 Budget, how much correspondence has the Minister received in relation to schools funding?
- b. How many items of correspondence have been responded to?
- c. What is the average time taken to respond?
- d. How many items of correspondence has the Minister signed? How many by his office? How many have been managed by the Department?
- e. (i) How many items related to school funding and cuts announced in the Budget?
(ii) What proportion has supported the cuts?
(iii) What proportion has opposed?

Answer

- a. The Minister received 29 letters for response.
- b. As at 30 June 2014:
 - (i). Six have been completed;
 - (ii). Eleven are in the final stages of clearance;
 - (iii). Twelve have not yet reached their due date.
- c. 18 working days
- d. All six were signed by the Minister; no correspondence was for the office or department to sign.
- e. (i). 29 records related to School funding, of which 20 mentioned funding levels announced in the Budget.
(ii). No letters expressed support for the Budget announcements.
(iii). 17 letters expressed disagreement with Budget announcements.