

Item 9 - Question Time

To the Chair of the People Committee

“Between the 2015/16 and 2016/17 years, the number of FTE equivalent of ASN teachers declined from 293.6 to 198.6. I have been told there was a change in the recording that year to exclude the approximately 40 teachers working in special schools, now only to count the ASN teachers in mainstream schools, however, this is still a significant reduction. Can you tell me the reasons for staff leaving and the number of staff recorded within each category?”

Response to Mrs I MacKenzie

Between the 2015/16 and 2016/17 years, the number of FTE equivalent of ASN teachers declined from 293.6 to 198.6. I have been told there was a change in the recording that year to exclude the approximately 40 teachers working in special schools, now only to count the ASN teachers in mainstream schools, however, this is still a significant reduction. Can you tell me the reasons for staff leaving and the number of staff recorded within each category?”

There was no large scale reduction in the number of ASN Teachers during this period. The figures reflect changes for recording purposes.

The figure for 2015/16 (293.6) includes all ASN Teachers: Secondary ASN, Primary ASN, Special Schools and Devolved ASN.

The figure for 2016/17 (198.6) involves Secondary ASN and Primary ASN, without the Devolved ASN and Special Schools staff that are funded from school budgets. If the number of school funded posts is added to this to provide a comparable figure, it is 279.3. The difference of 14.3 is likely to be due to changes in budgets, and some use of Pupil Support Assistants instead of Teachers.