

STATEMENT FROM:



# BILLY ARMSTRONG MLA

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## **Five million pounds spent by Education Minister on “Consultants” for little return says Armstrong**

Mid-Ulster MLA Billy Armstrong has asked the Education Minister Catriona Ruane to justify her Department’s spending of nearly £5 million on consultants in the past eight years.

Mr Armstrong made the call after receiving the figures in response to an Assembly question.

The Ulster Unionist MLA said:

“The statistics show that in the year 2001-02, the Department for Education spent £140,869 on consultants. Two years later this had risen to £510,432, and by the following year -2004-05 – it was a staggering £765,799.

There was a slight dip in 2005-06 which was followed by a huge leap to £905,600 the following year, and in 2007-08 it topped the million pound mark at £1,067,704.

2008-09 saw £850,000 spent, meaning that just short of £5 million was spent by the Department on consultants in eight years.

At a time when the Minister is claiming that she is unable to come up with funds to re-build crumbling schools, many parents – particularly those who send their children to Magherafelt Nursery and Primary Schools in my Mid-Ulster constituency - will share my anger at the amount of money spent on consultants.

I could understand it if there was some outcome for this expenditure, but the sad truth is that our education system is in a shambles thanks in no small part to the Minister’s bungling of the Transfer issue, and a failure to repair a lengthy list of crumbling School buildings. People are entitled to ask, what exactly have we got for our five million pounds?”

ENDS