

**Report of Minutes of Special Education Finance Board Meeting  
Held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

<p><b>8.7.10</b></p>	<p>This special meeting was called to prepare for a meeting with the Department of Education and Skills (DES) as part of the Department's consultative process as to how the Government is proposing to utilise the cash element of the Congregations' offer of contributions of €110m. over the next few years.</p> <p>At the commencement of the meeting the Board was presented with a final draft response to questions posed by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&amp;AG) for publication in the Annual Report 2009 of the C&amp;AG.</p>	<p>It was agreed that, subject to amendments, the responses would be forwarded to the C&amp;AG and the Board would be informed if any more information was requested.</p>
	<p>A discussion took place on why some of the additional funds might be used for educational purposes and how the Board would advise the Department of Education and Skills (DES) in view of its experience of emerging patterns in grant applications and expenditure.</p> <p>In summary it was felt that the fund was weighted as far as possible in favour of former residents; that the need for education was vital but its definition needs to be very broad; there is a need for a dedicated outreach service; there is a need to define the nature of intergenerational sequelae in order to break the deficit of education which may have arisen as a result of residence on one of the specified institutions.</p>	
	<p><b>Next meeting</b> The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010.</p>	