

Oifig An Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta.
Sráid Maoilbhríde,
Baile Átha Cliath 1

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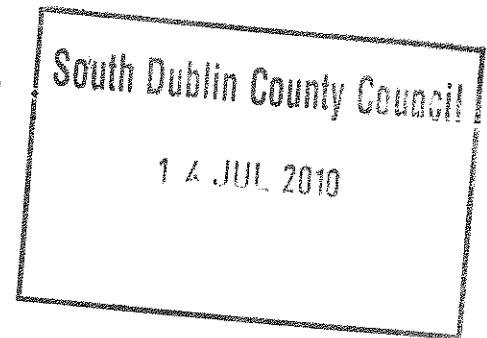
Office of the Minister for Education and Science
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Ms Mary Maguire
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24

PLEASE QUOTE OUR REF ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE
Our Ref: 1003492

12th July 2010



Dear Ms Maguire

I refer again to your correspondence dated 25th May in relation to the allocation of Special Needs Assistants in St Joseph's Special School, Balrothery.

I wish to advise that the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) is an independent agency with responsibility for determining the appropriate staffing levels in relation to the support of pupils with special educational needs in all mainstream and special schools. This includes determining the level of SNA support in schools. The NCSE operates within my Department's policy in allocating this support. Neither I, nor the Department of Education and Skills, interfere with the allocation decisions taken by the NCSE in schools – whether such decisions result in an increased or reduced allocation to the schools.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Mary Coughlan T.D.
Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills