

THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND

Summary of the Work of EIS to Date on National Standardised Assessment

Curriculum for Excellence continues to be a priority for the Committee. The work of the Committee since the 2015 AGM has focused on issues related to the new qualifications and wider assessment matters.

These wider matters have included the introduction of National Improvement Framework (NIF) and the new standardised national assessments.

Below is a summary of the work done to date by the Education Committee and the wider EIS, to develop an EIS position in relation to NIF developments, and to challenge and reshape in a range of ways, the position of Scottish Government on those aspects of the proposals around national standardised assessment that have appeared to run counter to EIS policy on assessment.

Eternal engagement

- EIS representation on several key groups provided an opportunity to have the EIS view incorporated into the development of the thinking around NIF: CfE Management Board, NIF Strategic Board, Assessment Design Group, Dashboard Design Group, and the NIF Quarterly Update for Professional Associations.
- EIS bi-annual meetings with Education Scotland have included discussion of NIF and standardised assessment.
- EIS representation on the AGASL group at which the suitability of national assessments for children with certain additional support needs was raised and civil servants questioned on rationale, including that related to publication of levels data.
- EIS response to Education and Culture Committee Consultation on proposed stage 2 amendment to the Education Bill: National Improvement Framework, November 2015.
- EIS Oral Evidence to the Scottish Parliament Education and Culture Committee on the National Improvement Framework –November 2015.
- Attendance at Conferences focused on assessment:
 - AEA Conference, November 2015
 - ICSE Conference, January 2016
- Raised with education spokespeople of political parties at respective scheduled meetings.
- EIS position reflected in chapter contributed by the Assistant Secretary to Poverty in Scotland, 2016.

- EIS position reflected in presentation and contribution to panel discussion at launch of the above hosted by Open University and attended by a wide variety of interested organisations, March 2016.
- EIS Written Evidence to the Scottish Parliament Education and Skills Committee on the challenges remaining within CfE, October 2016.
- EIS Oral Evidence to the Scottish Parliament Education and Skills Committee on the challenges remaining within CfE, October 2016.
- Question on use of standardised assessment to DFM by Education Convener at EIS HT & DHT conference, October 2016.

- EIS press releases:

EIS Executive Re-Affirms Opposition to National Testing, September 2015

First Minister’s Announcement on Standardised Test, September 2015

Raising Attainment, a Shared Goal but national Tests not the Answer October, 2015

EIS Raises National Testing Concerns in Evidence to Parliament, November 2015

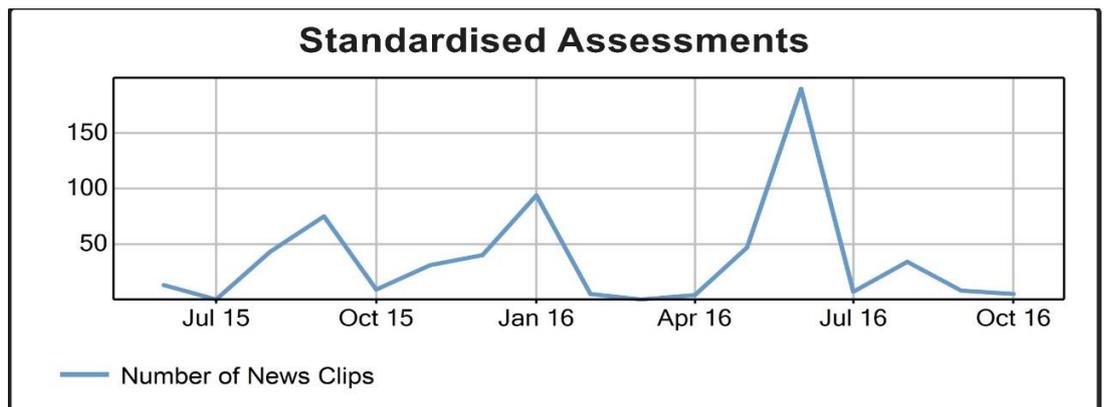
EIS Offers Qualified Welcome to NIF Announcement, January 2016

Standardised Assessment won’t Close Gap or Overcome Poverty, June 2016

EIS AGM: General Secretary urges Teachers to stand together to reject Excessive Assessment Burden, June 2016

Government Commitment to Education Welcome – but challenges remain, September 2016

- External press coverage - all stories that mention standardised assessments and EIS



September 2015 – 75 Stories (Nicola Sturgeon puts education at the heart of legislative programme and our response to FMQs.)

January 2016 – 94 stories (Qualifications set for scrutiny amid teacher industrial action threat)

May 2016 – 47 stories (Standardised school assessments will not add to workload)

June 2016 – 190 stories (John Swinney at the AGM, Larry’s AGM address and EIS motions mentioning Standardised Assessments)

August 2016 – 34 stories (John Swinney streamlined guidance on workload)

- Various television interviews

Member engagement

- EIS Briefing Paper - An interim response to discussions concerning the establishment of a National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education, September 2015
- SEJ coverage of the issues:
 - October 2015, No Return to National Testing, the EIS view on the National Improvement Framework
 - October 2015, National Testing is not the Answer, Professor Terry Wrigley
 - December 2015, National Improvement Framework - Education Secretary Angela Constance. The EIS View, EIS Education Committee Convener, Susan Quinn.
 - October 2016, Welcome Clarity on National Assessments
 - October 2016, Assessment in Scotland: In Search of Social Justice, Louise Hayward Professor of Educational Assessment and Innovation, University of Glasgow
- Survey and analysis of Local Association Secretaries in response to the use of national standardised testing for all pupils in P1, P4, P7 and S3. Final report included in AGM papers 2016.
- Organisation of an Education and Equality Conference at which standardised assessment was a key theme, March 2016. Report distributed to all who registered and all conference participants.
- Interim advice note on the National Improvement Framework issued in May 2016 to EIS Members, School Representatives and Local Association Secretaries.
- Reissue of the above advice note, October Reps Bulletin.