



Improving the management of enrolment schemes

Enrolment schemes are introduced to ensure that students are able to attend their local school by preventing overcrowding. Two changes have been made to the Act to fine-tune the way enrolment schemes are managed.

The first allows the Ministry to develop and put in place an enrolment scheme when a school refuses or is slow to do so, removing the need to appoint a limited statutory manager to do this.

The second makes it clear that the Secretary for Education can only override an enrolment scheme and direct a school to enrol a child or young person under exceptional circumstances. This reinforces the seriousness of the situation and the weight of evidence that is required for a board's decision not to enrol an applicant to be overturned.

These changes improve the way in which enrolment schemes are managed.

Who will these changes affect?

These changes will affect those schools that are slow or refuse to implement enrolment schemes.

They will also affect parents who wish to apply for an exemption for their child from an enrolment scheme. Applications for overriding an enrolment scheme will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.

Which sections of the Act have been changed?

Section 11IA has been inserted to enable the Secretary for Education to develop an enrolment scheme for a school if it has received notice and has not done so within a reasonable period.

Section 11P has been amended to specify that the Secretary will only direct enrolment for a student in exceptional circumstances.

When do the changes take effect?

These provisions take effect from 19 May 2017.