



## **Budgetary Outlook Consultation Response**

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The Governing Bodies Association recently responded to the Budgetary Outlook published by the Department of Finance. The GBA response addressed the increasing cost pressures faced by Voluntary Grammar Schools following years of real-term budget cuts, rising employer costs and inflationary pressures.

The GBA responded to the budgets scenarios for Home to School Transport believing that innovative solutions – such as local arrangements around staggered opening times - could protect exiting provision.

The response also advised that changes to the current system of Education

Maintenance Allowance could have a negative impact these on children from lower income families that the scheme was designed to support.

## Data Protection

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The UK Government will implement the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a new law relating to Data Protection, from 25 May 2018. This GDPR will replace the existing 1988 Data Protection Act and will impact all organisations, including public authorities and schools. The new legislation will affect the way data and information is managed within a school.

It is important that schools are aware of the additional requirements set by GDPR on top of those existing in the current Data Protection Act. There are a number of key areas within GDPR that those operating within the education sector must be aware of. The Education Authority (EA) recently launched a video outlining key requirements in legislation for schools.

The EA's video can be viewed [here](#).

There are a number of examples of personal information that can be found in a school. These include:

- Addresses.
- Names of staff and pupils.
- Dates of birth.
- Medical information.
- SEN assessments and data.
- School marks.
- Exam results.
- Staff development reviews.
- National insurance numbers.

GDPR places an increased emphasis on insuring that information is safe and stored in the correct way. Failure to adhere to the new legislation could see increased fines for organisations deemed guilty of improper conduct in relation to data protection and management. It is important that schools realise that it is not enough to comply with the existing Data Protection Act and that more needs to be done to meet the new requirements of GDPR.

## Annual General Meeting

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The Governing Bodies Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, at Riddel Hall, Belfast, commencing at 2pm, with

refreshments available from 1pm in the Courtyard. Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary for the Department of Education will be the guest speaker for the event. Anyone wishing to attend should RSVP to [administrator@gbani.org](mailto:administrator@gbani.org).

## Nominations for GBA Executive

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The GBA is seeking nominations for six vacancies on the GBA Executive Committee. Members of the Executive are drawn from Boards of Governors from member schools. The Committee meets monthly during term time. A letter, along with a nomination form has been issued to all schools, encouraging nominations for the vacant positions. The elections to the GBA Executive take place on a rotational basis. The closing date of receipt of nominations is Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.



## Reconstitution of Boards of Governors

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The reconstitution of Board of Governors in Voluntary Grammar Schools, which takes place every four years, is currently underway. The Department of Education (DE) and the Education Authority (EA) have now launched a recruitment exercise to reconstitute Northern Ireland schools' Boards of Governors during 2018.

## Driver Training in Category D and D1 Bus Licences

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The Education Authority has concluded the procurement for the provision of driver training in Category D and D1 Bus licences. The schedule of providers can be downloaded at <http://www.nieducationextra.org/>. Please note it is our understanding that Voluntary Grammar schools do not have to pay to access the EA procurement portal. If you have any difficulties accessing information please contact any of the EA procurement offices.

## Advertise a Teaching/Non-Teaching Vacancy

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As you may be aware the GBA can host teaching and non-teaching vacancies on its website [www.gbani.org](http://www.gbani.org) and the information is also shared on our twitter account. This service is free of charge for all member schools. Details of vacancies should be sent to [administrator@gbani.org](mailto:administrator@gbani.org), please allow one working day for the vacancy to be updated.

## Website and Twitter

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Please visit our website on the following link <http://www.gbani.org/>  
Follow us on Twitter @gbani\_jobs – Look out for regular updates on Job listings and upcoming events.

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