

The revised guidance on pupil reporting issued 20 May 2020 deviates from the 2009 regulations in that rather than being prescriptive over the content of the report, it places the onus on the individual school principal to decide what is considered appropriate. In his statement the minister stated:

*'In these challenging times, it is not practicable for schools to spend the significant amount of time required to complete these detailed reports.'*

INTO would remind principal members that it is unreasonable to expect teachers to report on educational attainment beyond the date of school closures. INTO is advising its members not to report on the online learning, as not all parties will have had a proper opportunity to assess this and it could be potentially detrimental to the most disadvantaged.

Where key workers' children or vulnerable children have been given access to supervised learning in the school setting, this should not be reported on.

Sufficient and specific non-teaching time must be left aside during normal working hours to complete reports. Also, each subject area, irrespective of font size, should be covered in no more than 50 words.

Reports are to be completed where this can be done without placing an unreasonable demand on a teacher and where they can be accessed electronically only. There should be no expectation on teachers to attend school settings to complete reports.

The distribution of reports during this time of COVID-19 crisis could be problematic in relation to PHA guidance and GDPR. Schools may wish to consider delaying the distribution of reports until such time as this can happen securely and safely from school.

INTO further advises that the statutory requirement in this regard is for only one written report to be provided to a parent in any academic year. This requirement will have been fulfilled if a written report has already been provided during the current academic year. Should a report have already been completed to go to parents at this time, INTO would suggest that it would be unreasonable to expect new reports to be prepared as a result of these new guidelines from DE.

Given that teacher union members have been on industrial action in relation to the End of Key Stage Assessment, it is unreasonable for any reference to these, or outcomes in relation to same, to be included in school reports. It is also be unreasonable to expect principals & teachers to complete Summative Records of Achievement as set out in the Guidance Where a parent requests a meeting with a teacher to discuss the report then restrictions in relation to COVID-19 should be strictly adhered to.