

**Department for Employment and Learning, N. Ireland**  
**Success Through STEM Consultation**  
**Response from Institute of Physics in Ireland**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010**

Do you believe that the activities already taken and those articulated in this Strategy will address these recommendations?

Yes  No

Yes

If not, what else needs to be done?

Broadly agreeing with the strategy given the pivotal role of the physical sciences to the N. I. economy. Strongly call for full implementation given that its recommendations are interlinking and a piece meal approach to the strategy could be counterproductive. Also believe that a necessary step to its implementation is to have a politically high level science steering committee – comprised of ministers and senior civil servants from each of the relevant government departments in addition to the chief science champion. Ideally this should be chaired by the First/Deputy First Minister. Such a committee would demonstrate the importance of STEM to the N. Ireland economy and ensure a strong, cross departmental approach to the implementation of proposals in this area.

(plain text only, 750 character limit)

Characters used:

Given the pressures on public finances which actions do you believe will make the most difference and should be priority?

*The top priorities are:*

*Engaging with business as indicated in Imperative 1.*

*Supporting and developing good teaching practice in schools. This is essential to enthusing students about science – Physics Teachers Network is a key element in such a strategy*

*Increase the numbers of applications for physical sciences and maths places in Initial Teacher Ed courses*

*Develop a STEM CPD framework for teachers*

*Developing a clear STEM career path with good co-operation between all players, particularly in the provision of clear information on STEM careers.*

Characters used:

