

INTERIM EVALUATION OF THE DEL RESEARCH AGENDA



November 2012

INTERIM EVALUATION OF THE DEL RESEARCH AGENDA

CONTENTS

	Page
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EVALUATION	1
1 BACKGROUND TO DEL RESEARCH AGENDA	3
2 METHODOLOGY FOR THIS EVALUATION.....	5
3 PROCUREMENT OF RESEARCH AGENDA 2007-09	7
4 PROJECTS COMMISSIONED UNDER RESEARCH AGENDA 2007-09	9
5 ACHIEVEMENT TOWARDS KEY OBJECTIVE	12
6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	17
 Appendix A: List of Research Agenda 2007-09 projects	
Appendix B: Post Project Evaluation of DEL Research Agenda (2007-09) projects - Questionnaire	

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EVALUATION

Recommendation 1: *The Department's Research Strategy should continue to be focused on policy needs with sufficient flexibility to accommodate changing circumstances.*

Recommendation 2: *To take account of policy needs the Research Strategy should be developed on a forward looking three-year cycle. However, to ensure the needs of business areas are being met, and that research outcomes influence the policy considerations of the SMT, an annual report should be submitted to the SMT, which will highlight progress over the previous year and the way forward for the forthcoming year.*

Recommendation 3: *The next evaluation of the Department's Research Strategy should be commenced nearing completion of its next 3-year Strategy in 2015. Given the long-term nature of capturing impacts from the outputs of research projects, this evaluation should concentrate on the progress made against the objectives of the Research Agenda since the commencement of the Department's more strategic, long-term approach back in 2004. To ensure an independent view on the Agenda, it is recommended this is undertaken externally to the Department.*

Recommendation 4: *It is recommended that the branches responsible for research are encouraged to engage in a process of post project evaluation for any future research projects as a matter of course within 3 months of completion of their respective project. A PPE template to capture these outcomes should be developed by Analytical Services and made available on the DEL intranet. Analytical Services should monitor completion of these on a bi-annual basis to inform the annual report to SMT on progress of the Agenda.*

Recommendation 5: *Analytical Services should review the research project 'check-list' guidance, in partnership with Finance Directorate, and disseminate within the Department, including on the DEL intranet, to ensure consistency of approach in terms of commissioning and managing research projects.*

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EVALUATION

Recommendation 6: *With the Analytical Services website portal now past its first anniversary, it is recommended that an internal review is undertaken during 2012/13 to ensure functionality and that content is up-to-date.*

Recommendation 7: *Dissemination is an important part of the process in terms of enabling policy makers to build the evidence into their programmes and policies. To further enhance this going forward the Department, through its Analytical Services Group, should develop research summaries of around 3 to 4 pages in an agreed template which would set out the key findings of the research.*

Recommendation 8: *A policy response for each research project should be developed and published, where appropriate, to demonstrate the clear linkage between research, evidence and policy development.*

Recommendation 9: *In order to promote this outward looking approach, the Department should continue to monitor recently published research that has relevance to its work and, each quarter, produce a Quarterly Research Review.*

Recommendation 10: *In addition, the Department should seek to continue to build strong engagement with other public, academic and research institutions where it is relevant and cost effective to do so to ensure that any research commissioned by the Department complements rather than duplicates existing or emerging work.*

Recommendation 11: *In taking forward its Research Agenda the Department should engage fully with other relevant Government Departments and proactively seek to be engaging in relevant research as it is undertaken elsewhere.*

1 BACKGROUND TO DEL RESEARCH AGENDA

1.1 The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) implemented a new strategic approach to commissioning research through its Research Agenda 2004-2007 in order to ensure that the link between evidence and policy development was strengthened. This offered, for the first time, a more strategic, long-term approach to research within the Department.

1.2 In 2007 the Department refreshed its Research Agenda and published a second Agenda, outlining its sustained commitment to evidence based policy development and service delivery. The refreshed Research Agenda was published in March 2007 and delivered a range of projects over a three and a half year period. The Research Agenda's aims are to:

- strengthen further the link that exists between research and policy development within DEL;
- provide improved co-ordination between the Department's planned research and the Strategic and Business Planning process; and
- enhance interest within the research community in the areas of research relevant to DEL.

1.3 In 2009 the Department published a robust and systematic evaluation of its Research Agenda, its outcomes and its processes. The report found that, among other things, *"[research] outputs had provided the Department with robust, high quality and relevant evidence to underpin the development, delivery and evaluation of policy"* and that it *"was policy led with requirements determined by Public Sector Agreement targets and other strategic objectives and commitments"*.

1.4 It is now timely having reached the conclusion of Research Agenda 2007-09 to undertake an interim evaluation of the Department's Research

Agenda outputs and outcomes to demonstrate the effectiveness of this Research Agenda.

- 1.5 The primary role of this current interim evaluation is to determine the extent to which the Department's Research Agenda continues to be relevant in terms of its policy/service delivery impact across the Department with a particular focus on the projects commissioned as part of the 2007-09 Research Agenda. Given the extensive evaluation conducted in 2009 and as the objectives have remained the same, the current evaluation is not intended to be as wide-ranging as the previous but rather to build on it focusing on research quality and impact of the range of projects commissioned. A full external evaluation of outputs from the DEL Research Agenda series is planned for 2015 after the 2012-15 Agenda has run its course. That will be augmented by an annual review of progress. These plans build on recommendations which have emerged from this evaluation report.

2 METHODOLOGY FOR THIS EVALUATION

- 2.1 Evaluation is a central tenant of sound policy development and one which the Department is fully committed to. This evaluation exercise has been undertaken and managed by Analytical Services. Whilst Analytical Services have written this interim evaluation and it is an internal assessment, views from key customers were gathered. In addition, a full external evaluation of outputs from the DEL Research Agenda series is planned for 2015 after the 2012-15 Agenda has run its course.
- 2.2 The first evaluation of the Research Agenda, which was published in June 2009, included a focus on process as well as impacts from the projects commissioned under Research Agenda 2004-07. The recommendations cascading from that evaluation have been incorporated and taken forward for future Research Agendas.
- 2.3 This evaluation will focus on the impact to date of the 2007-09 Research Agenda projects, accompanied with a high level review of process. This has been assessed through the use of internal consultation with Directorates who have a role in policy development and service delivery across the Department. The main focus has therefore been on the first overall aim of the Agenda, to *'strengthen further the link that exists between research and policy development within DEL.'*
- 2.4 In order to determine the extent to which each of the 25 projects commissioned under this Research Agenda have managed to achieve the above aim, Analytical Services composed a short survey, attached at Appendix B. This survey was administered to the respective project manager who had been involved in commissioning research under this call. The questionnaire contained 5 questions:

- i) In general, do you think this research project taken forward under the Department's Research Agenda has significantly influenced the programmes and policies you deliver?
- ii) Can you give an example of how the outcomes from this research project have directly influenced the strategic focus of a programme or policy?
- iii) To what extent are you satisfied with the quality of the project you commissioned under Research Agenda 2007-09?
- iv) Do you agree that the project delivered value for money?
- v) Generally, are there any areas in terms of the process or implementation of the Research Agenda that could be improved?

2.5 In considering the outcomes of this evaluation, it is important to note that it takes some time before research findings can be traced through directly into policy development and outcomes. Therefore a definitive impact assessment is difficult to present, rather a tracking of progress towards the objective of *strengthening further the link that exists between research and policy development is set out.*

3 PROCUREMENT OF RESEARCH AGENDA 2007-09

- 3.1 The previous Research Agenda involved a process of a public call for research proposals by asking the research community to come forward with ideas and proposals on how to answer the research questions identified within it. This process was procured by the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD).
- 3.2 That procurement approach attracted significant interest from the research community and a large number of research proposals came forward and were selected as a result. However, in this latest Research Agenda the Department felt that the need to commission a wide range of projects through an open procurement process was not as clear as was the case several years previously for a number of reasons, including, a clearer need for a focus on specific issues and resource capacity issues. Consequently, it was considered appropriate that procurement for the Research Agenda 2007-09 was underpinned by a project-by-project approach, that is, each project would be procured and commissioned on an individual basis.
- 3.3 In developing this Research Agenda the Department undertook an extensive programme of internal and external consultation. This explorative process, when combined with a comprehensive stock take of the NI research base, allowed the Department to identify areas where its existing research base either needed be updated or expanded. However, Research Agenda 2007-09 also recognised that research needs are not static; rather they evolve as circumstances change and new policy issues emerge. Allowance for new emerging policy issues had been built into the roll-out of this Research Agenda to ensure that it was flexible to respond to unforeseen needs and opportunities as necessary and which could not be delayed until the next review of this Agenda had occurred.

3.4 In procuring the Research Agenda, where appropriate, the Department worked in conjunction with CPD in relation to the procurement of each research project. There were some instances where GB/Rol studies were extended to incorporate a NI dimension – these represented a valuable opportunity for the Department to achieve greater value-for-money and economies of scale through a joined-up approach and also provide comparable data and information with the rest of the UK and/or Rol. In these instances projects were procured by the lead organisation.

4 PROJECTS COMMISSIONED UNDER RESEARCH AGENDA 2007-09

4.1 A total of 25 research projects were commissioned under the auspices of the Department's Research Agenda. A full list of these projects is attached at Appendix A. Each of these 25 research projects was monitored by a Steering Group to ensure that it ran according to its respective Terms of Reference and timescale agreed at the outset. The Department's professional economists and statisticians within the Analytical Services Group have, as with the previous Research Agenda, had a key role in taking forward the Research Agenda. They have, throughout this Research Agenda and its predecessor, assisted with the specification of the research issues, the selection of external researchers and where required, steering research and quality controlling research outputs. The sponsoring Division also had a key role with sitting on or chairing the individual Steering Groups, funding the research as well as providing valuable policy support throughout the research project life.

4.2 The cost of research commissioned to deliver Research Agenda 2007-09 in financial terms was £966,323, or at an average cost of £38,653 per project. As highlighted previously some projects were undertaken jointly with other countries in the UK or the RoI. This has enabled leverage of monies from elsewhere, such as in the case of the ESRC Impact of HEIs on regional economies project¹ and the two ESRC Research Fellowships². In other instances it has enabled not only cost savings in undertaking the research jointly over separate projects, but has allowed for consistency of approach and thus comparable information across the two countries. For example, the NI Skills Expert Group and the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs in Ireland collaborated with the Department on issues in relation to skills and the labour market. Both groups worked together to ensure that the evidence available to underpin policies will deliver the necessary workforce skills across the island.

4.3 DEL also engaged with other key Departments and agencies, such as the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Invest NI, the Department of Education, the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and the Department for Social Development, in relation to taking forward relevant research. To ensure this link gained a more strategic focus DEL held regular Research Co-ordination meetings with these other Departments and agencies to ensure complementarities in taking forward individual Departmental Research Agendas.

4.4 Alongside the Research Agenda, the Department has continued its tracking and examination of research commissioned outside the Department that has relevance to the work of DEL to ensure that work is not duplicated and

¹ This was a £2m Research Programme of which DEL contributed £50,000. Other partners included the Economic and Social Research Council ([ESRC](#)), the Scottish Funding Council ([SFC](#)), the Higher Education Funding Council for England ([HEFCE](#)) and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales ([HEFCW](#)).

² One of which the costs were shared between the ESRC and DEL; whilst the other project was apportioned 25:25:50% between DEL, the Department of Education and the ESRC respectively.

is complemented by DEL research activities. These research publications are contained within the Department's Quarterly Research Review.

5 ACHIEVEMENT TOWARDS KEY OBJECTIVE

5.1 As part of the consultation process responses were received for 19 out of the 25 projects commissioned under the Research Agenda, giving a robust response rate of 76%.

5.2 The first question on the questionnaire asked respondents to indicate whether they strongly agreed, agreed, were unsure, disagreed or strongly disagreed with the following statement:

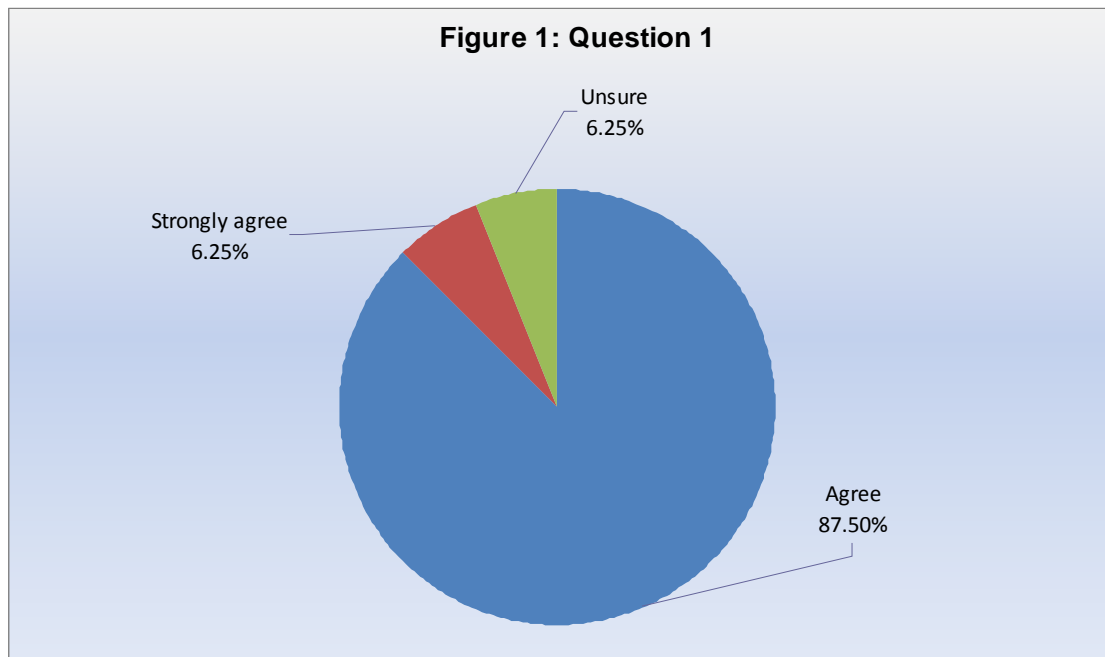
'In general, do you think this research project taken forward under the Department's Research Agenda has significantly influenced the programmes and policies you deliver?'

5.3 As evidenced in Figure 1 below, an overwhelming majority (94%) of those who responded to this part of the questionnaire agreed or strongly agreed that their research project had significantly influenced the programmes and policies they delivered. Analysis of questionnaire responses found that none of those who responded felt that the research they had commissioned hadn't influenced policy. Only one respondent indicated that they were unsure if the research project had significantly influenced the programmes and policies they delivered.

5.4 The questionnaire also asked respondents to elaborate on their answer to question 1. Out of those who commented on why they agreed, most said that the research had provided them with a significant amount of evidence both qualitative and quantitative. Respondents also indicated that they felt the information gathered under their respective research project would not only be useful now but also in the future. Interestingly, one project led to the development of a new framework in the form of Steps to Work. One respondent did, however, highlight that the findings of their research project

had in part been superseded by wider economic and political developments.

Q1: In general, do you think this research project taken forward under the Department's Research Agenda has significantly influenced the programmes and policies you deliver?



5.5 Question two asked respondents to 'give an example of how the outcomes from this research project have directly influenced the strategic focus of a programme or policy?' Given that this question was more qualitative in nature Analytical Services endeavoured to identify key themes in the responses received and grouped them accordingly. The analysis of responses has illustrated that for all projects where a response was provided (15) to this question it was viewed that their respective project was an important addition to the Department's evidence base for policy development. Within the responses five specifically stated that the research they had commissioned had a direct influence on their particular policy or programme. Finally, one of the questionnaire responses stated

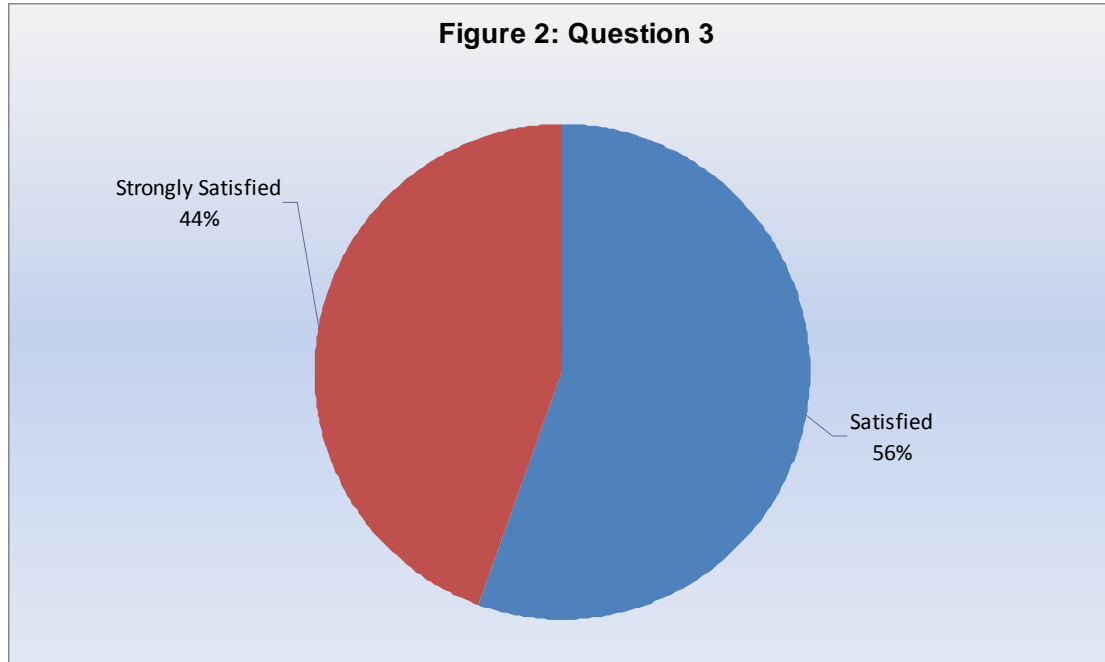
that their research project had directly contributed to the evidence base in support of a change in policy. In this case their particular research project had helped to influence the move from New Deal to Steps to Work in September 2008. In considering the response to this question, it is important to note that it takes some time before research findings can be traced through directly into policy development and outcomes.

5.6 Question three asked participants to indicate their agreement on the statement *'To what extent are you satisfied with the quality of the project you commissioned under Research Agenda 2007-09?'* Responses were provided for 18 of the projects in total to this question, with these illustrated in figure 2 below.

5.7 None of those who responded to the survey indicated that they were dissatisfied with the research they had commissioned. Rather, 56% of those that responded said they were satisfied and 44% were strongly satisfied. A number of respondents who had stated they were satisfied provided additional detail on their reasons for indicating why, including that:

- the research demonstrated the value of quantitative and qualitative research in areas where previous information has been anecdotal;
- it gave them clear and unambiguous evidence; and
- that the results they received were easy to understand and met the needs of the Department.

Q3: To what extent are you satisfied with the quality of the project you commissioned under Research Agenda 2007-09?



5.8 Those respondents that indicated they were strongly satisfied with their research provided additional detail which stated, inter alia, the research provided a robust assessment of complex issues and fully addressed the parameters set out in the original terms of reference.

5.9 Question four asked respondents to indicate their agreement to the statement *‘Do you agree that your respective project offered value for money?’* As in question 3, 18 responses were received to this question, all of which were positive. Nine respondents indicated that they agreed with the statement and 9 strongly agreed. Those who strongly agreed generally thought that the project was excellent value for money as all of the objectives for their research had been met within budget. Those who agreed had opinions such as; the benefits justified the cost, the cost was similar to the cost of the research in the past, objectives were achieved and issues were addressed.

5.10 Question five was perhaps the most qualitative of all those posed, asking respondents *‘Generally, are there any areas in terms of the process or implementation of the Research Agenda that could be improved?’* This question garnered the fewest responses - of the 19 questionnaires completed only four provided a response to this particular question. Three responses vindicated the approach of this Research Agenda by stating that their particular research project(s) had clearly demonstrated the need for a more systematic gathering of evidence in their work area. The other response stated that *‘it would be useful if the Research Agenda was flexible enough to allow an increased number of ad hoc research projects.’*

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Evaluation is a central tenant of sound policy development and one which the Department is fully committed to. In keeping with that commitment, and with those research projects commissioned under Research Agenda 2007-09 reaching completion, it was timely to undertake an interim evaluation of the impact of the Research Agenda up to that point.
- 6.2 Given that a robust and systematic evaluation of Research Agenda 2004-07 was published in March 2009, the primary role of this evaluation was to determine the extent to which projects commissioned through Research Agenda 2007-09 were relevant in terms of policy/service delivery impact across the Department. This evaluation has sought to test this relevance by engaging research commissioners in a questionnaire which broadly examined their experience and opinions of the impact of the research commissioned through this agenda. The results of this questionnaire, analysed in section 5, have been used to measure outturn against the following aim of the agenda to *'strengthen further the link that exists between research and policy development within DEL.'*
- 6.3 It is encouraging to note that the overwhelming majority (94%) of respondents to the consultation considered that their research project had significantly influenced the programmes and policies they deliver. Research project managers considered that their respective project was an important addition to the Department's evidence base for policy development. In addition, in terms of quality and achievement of value for money from their individual project outputs, all respondents were satisfied or better in that respect. From the evidence gathered, it can be concluded that this Research Agenda has been successful in its main aim of *'strengthening the link between research and policy development with the*

Department. It takes time for the impacts of some research to embed and filter through to policy development, however the short to medium term impact undoubtedly demonstrates that research is making, and will continue to make, a significant contribution to policy development within the Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintaining flexibility

- 6.4 It is evident that whilst the Research Agenda sets out the strategic direction of research within the Department, this does not preclude it from regularly engaging in ad hoc research projects as and when required. This was an important aspect of rolling out the Research Agenda to take cognisance of changing needs as they develop.

Recommendation 1: The Department's Research Strategy should continue to be focused on policy needs with sufficient flexibility to accommodate changing circumstances.

Recommendation 2: To take account of policy needs the Research Strategy should be developed on a forward looking three-year cycle. However to ensure the needs of business areas are being met and that research outcomes influence the policy considerations of the SMT, an annual report should be submitted to the SMT, which will highlight progress over the previous year and the way forward for the forthcoming year.

Monitoring and evaluation

- 6.5 Evaluation is a central tenant of sound policy development and one which the Department is fully committed to. In order to effectively measure progress against objectives of the Research Agenda sufficient and timely information is required.

Recommendation 3: The next evaluation of the Department's Research Strategy should be commenced nearing completion of its next 3-year Strategy in 2015. Given the long-term nature of capturing impacts from the outputs of research projects, this evaluation should concentrate on the progress made against the objectives of the Research Agenda since the commencement of the Department's more strategic, long-term approach back in 2004. To ensure an independent view on the Agenda, it is recommended this is undertaken externally to the Department.

Recommendation 4: It is recommended that the branches responsible for research are encouraged to engage in a process of post project evaluation for any future research projects as a matter of course within 3 months of completion of their respective project. A PPE template to capture these outcomes should be developed by Analytical Services and made available on the DEL intranet. Analytical Services should monitor completion of these on a bi-annual basis to inform the annual report to SMT on progress of the Agenda.

Recommendation 5: Analytical Services should review the research project 'check-list' guidance, in partnership with Finance Directorate, and disseminate within the Department, including on the DEL intranet, to ensure consistency of approach in terms of commissioning and managing research projects.

Dissemination and Impact

6.6 The Department is committed to ensuring that the work emanating from its Research Agenda will feed into policy development. Consequently, the relevant research findings are presented to the Department's SMT as appropriate, published on the Analytical Services section of the Department's web-site and widely disseminated, for instance through a series of seminars/conferences and through the Department's annual Labour Market Bulletin series.

Recommendation 6: With the Analytical Services website portal now past its first anniversary, it is recommended that an internal review is undertaken during 2012/13 to ensure functionality and that content is up-to-date.

Recommendation 7: Dissemination is an important part of the process in terms of enabling policy makers to build the evidence into their programmes and policies. To further enhance this going forward the Department through its Analytical Services Group should develop research summaries of around 3 to 4 pages in an agreed template which would set out the key findings of the research.

Recommendation 8: A policy response for each research project should be developed and published, where appropriate, to demonstrate the clear linkage between research, evidence and policy development.

Outward looking research approach

6.7 The Department is committed to ensuring that the research it commissions represents value for money and delivers the maximum positive impact on policy development and delivery. Examples were set out earlier in terms of how the Department has worked with other research commissioning organisations to achieve this.

Recommendation 9: In order to promote this outward looking approach, the Department should continue to monitor recently published research that has relevance to its work and, each quarter, produce a Quarterly Research Review.

Recommendation 10: In addition, the Department should seek to continue to build strong engagement with other public, academic and research institutions where it is relevant and cost effective to do so to ensure that any research commissioned by the Department complements rather than duplicates existing or emerging work.

Recommendation 11: In taking forward its Research Agenda the Department should engage fully with other relevant Government Departments and proactively seek to be engaging in relevant research as it is undertaken elsewhere.

Appendix A

Research Title	Institution/ Organisation	DEL Sponsoring Division	Publication Date	Web-link	Financial Cost
Impact of Higher Education Institutions on regional economies	Range of academics across 9 projects	HE	Spring 2011	http://www.impact-hei.ac.uk/	DEL contributed £50,000 to £2m research programme
Teaching & Learning Research Programme (TLRP)	QUB through ESRC Research Fellowship	FE	Jan-11	http://www.delni.gov.uk/revi-ew-of-the-teaching-and-learning-research-programme-and-its-implications.htm	DEL contributed £14,242 to the cost. The ESRC funded 50% of the placement costs. DEL's cost was set at 25% of the total cost with DE meeting the remaining 25%.
Analysis of UCAS Data	Internal DEL analysts	HE	Dec-10	http://www.delni.gov.uk/analysis-of-ucas-data-2008-2009	Nil
Financial Services Sector: Future Skills Needs	Oxford Economics/FGS McClure Watters	S&I	Nov-10	http://www.delni.gov.uk/del-financial-services-future-skills-needs-	£26,000

Appendix A

Research Title	Institution/ Organisation	DEL Sponsoring Division	Publication Date	Web-link	Financial Cost
				_final_report_november_2010_no_links.pdf	
An examination of the impact of variable tuition fees and Student Support Arrangements in Northern Ireland: Building the Evidence Base	University of Southampton through ESRC Research Fellowship	HE	Oct-10 (As part of the Stuart Review)	http://www.delni.gov.uk/effect-of-variable-tuition-fees-interim-report.pdf	£28,446
The Protection and Welfare of Children and Vulnerable Adults in the Northern Ireland Further Education Sector: Scoping Study	FGS McClure Watters	FE	Aug-10	http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-further-education/protection-and-welfare-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-in-fe.htm	£27,345
Study to identify how 'literacy' levels have developed over time	Oxford Economics	FE	Jul-10	http://www.delni.gov.uk/delni_literacy_trends_final_report_11_02_2010_-_final_report_9_7_10-2.pdf	£21,000
The Economic, Labour Market and Skills Impacts of Migrant Workers in Northern Ireland	Oxford Economics/FGS McClure Watters /Perspective	SEER	Dec-09	http://www.delni.gov.uk/the_economic_labour_market_and_skills_impact_of_migrant_workers_in_northern_ir	£57,420

Appendix A

Research Title	Institution/ Organisation	DEL Sponsoring Division	Publication Date	Web-link	Financial Cost
	Insight			eland.pdf	
Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education: Longitudinal Survey of 2004/05 graduates three and a half years on - Northern Ireland Analysis	Internal DEL analysts	HE	Dec-09	http://www.delni.gov.uk/es/index/publications/r-and-s-stats/he-destinations-of-leavers/he-destination-of-leavers-0405.html	Nil
Northern Ireland Skills Monitoring Survey 2008	IFF Research Ltd	S&I	Nov-09	http://www.delni.gov.uk/nis/ms08_final_main_report.pdf	£173,769
ICT: Future Skills Needs	Oxford Economics/FGS McClure Watters	S&I	Nov-09	http://www.delni.gov.uk/research_study_on_high-level_skill_needs_in_ni_ict_sector_final_report.pdf	£28,000
Futuretrack - Northern Ireland's students: key findings from the Futuretrack Stage 1 survey	Warwick Institute for Employment Research	HE	Jul-09	http://www.delni.gov.uk/nis/page_1_futuretrack_report.pdf	£3,000
Management Matters in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland	McKinsey & Company	S&I	Jun-09	http://www.delni.gov.uk/management_matters_in_ireland.pdf	£40,000 (total DEL contribution to a DETI led project)

Appendix A

Research Title	Institution/ Organisation	DEL Sponsoring Division	Publication Date	Web-link	Financial Cost
Forecasting Future Skills Needs in Northern Ireland	Oxford Economics	S&I	Summer 2009	http://www.delni.gov.uk/es/final_addendum_to_original_main_report_future_skills_needs.pdf	£54,000
Destination of Leavers from Higher Education: Longitudinal Survey of 2002/03 graduates three and a half years on - Northern Ireland Analysis	Internal DEL analysts	HE	Dec-08	http://www.delni.gov.uk/es/index/publications/r-and-s-stats/he-destinations-of-leavers/long-dest-of-leavers-he.htm	Nil
All-Island Skills Study	Oxford Economics/FGS McClure Watters	S&I	Oct-08	http://www.delni.gov.uk/es/all-islandskillsstudy	Completed in conjunction with Forfas - total cost to DEL was 50%, £17,485
Skills at Work in Northern Ireland 2006	Cardiff University/University of Kent	S&I	Jun-08	http://www.delni.gov.uk/skills_at_work_-_final_report.pdf	£121,106
Examination and identification of Priority Skills areas in Northern Ireland	Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland	S&I	Mar-08	http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/r-and-s-stats/skills-reports/occupationalforecas	Covered under phases 1 and 2 below

Appendix A

Research Title	Institution/ Organisation	DEL Sponsoring Division	Publication Date	Web-link	Financial Cost
	(ERINI)			tingskillstrends.htm http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/r-and-s-stats/skills-reports/sectoralperformanceapproachphase2.htm	
An Assessment of International Trends in Occupational Forecasting and Skills Research: How Does NI Compare? (Phase 1)	Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland (ERINI)	S&I	Mar-08	http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/r-and-s-stats/skills-reports/occupationalforecastingskillstrends.htm	£45,510
Towards a Skills Assessment Framework for Northern Ireland: A Sectoral Performance Approach (Phase 2)	Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland (ERINI)	S&I	Mar-08	http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/r-and-s-stats/skills-reports/sectoralperformanceapproachphase2.htm	£39,330
The Experiences of Migrant Workers in Northern Ireland	Institute for Conflict Resolution	SEER	Dec-09	http://www.delni.gov.uk/a_report_on_the_experiences_of_migrant_workers_in_northern_ireland.pdf	£49,950
A Survey of Leavers from the New Deal 18 to 24 year olds and New Deal 25+ Programmes	KPMG	ES	Sep-08	http://www.delni.gov.uk/es/survey_of_new_deal_leaver	£96,970

Appendix A

Research Title	Institution/ Organisation	DEL Sponsoring Division	Publication Date	Web-link	Financial Cost
				s.pdf	
Research into the impact of an additional 2 days statutory leave entitlement for workers in Northern Ireland	Oxford Economics/KPM G/CMS	SEER	Mar-10	http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-employment-rights/finalreport-research-impact-of-additional-2-days-leave-workers-ni.htm	£24,500
Survey of users of employment-related tribunals in Northern Ireland	QGC	SEER	Jun-09	http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-employment-rights/survey-users-employment-related-tribunals-ni.htm	£25,000
Research into the Private Recruitment Sector in Northern Ireland	Millward Brown	SEER	May-10	http://www.delni.gov.uk/final_millward_brown_report_into_the_private_recruitment_sector_in_ni.pdf	£23,250

KEY: ES – Employment Service
 FE – Further Education Division
 HE – Higher Education Division
 S&I – Skills & Industry Division
 SEER – Strategy, European & Employment Relations Division

**Post Project Evaluation of DEL Research Agenda (2007-09) projects -
Questionnaire**

Project Details:

Title:

Cost:

Date of completion/publication:

Web-link:

Completed by:

Q1 In general, do you think this research project taken forward under the Department's Research Agenda has significantly influenced the programmes and policies you deliver?

Strongly agree – Agree – Unsure – Disagree – Strongly disagree

Please provide further detail.

Q2 Can you give an example of how the outcomes from this research project has directly influenced the strategic focus of a programme or policy?

Q3. To what extent are you satisfied with the quality of the project you commissioned under Research Agenda 2007-09?

Strongly satisfied – Satisfied – Unsure – Dissatisfied – Strongly dissatisfied

Please provide further detail.

Q4 Do you agree that the project delivered value for money?

Strongly agree – Agree – Unsure – Disagree – Strongly disagree

Please provide further detail.

Q5 Generally, are there any areas in terms of the process or implementation of the Research Agenda that could be improved?