

NCSE announces a 7.6% increase in SNA allocations to schools

NCSE publishes outcome of appeals process for 2014

1. SNA posts

The National Council for Special Education welcomes the announcement by the Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O’Sullivan T.D., that additional Special Needs Assistant posts are being made available for allocation for the forthcoming school year.

On foot of this announcement, the NCSE has sanctioned 666¹ additional posts to primary, special and post-primary schools for next September – the total number of SNA posts is now 11,820 – an increase of 7.6%.

The NCSE has additional SNA posts for use in response to emerging urgent demand during the next school year.

SNA allocations 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16

	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Current 2015	Sept 2015
No. of posts	10,492	10,985	11,154	11,820

A school by school breakdown of posts is available on the NCSE website today at www.ncse.ie.

2. Analysis of formal appeals received in 2014

In 2014, the NCSE processed over 24,000 applications from schools for resource teaching and SNA support for the 2014/15 school year. NCSE operates an appeals process for decisions on these applications. By end December 2014, 96 (0.4% of applications) appeals were received – this represents a reduction of 42% over the equivalent 2013 figure.

Total number of appeals received	96
Appeals from parents	17
Appeals from schools	79
Appeals concerning SNA allocations	61
Appeals concerning resource teaching hours	35
Appeals withdrawn	28
Appeals upheld	7
Appeals not upheld	61

END

Notes to Editors

1. The government has increased the number of SNA posts available for allocation to schools from 11,330 to 11,940 – this is an increase of 610 posts.

There are 11,154 SNA posts in schools at present. Next September, this will increase to 11,820 – an increase of 666 posts.

120 posts will be available to the NCSE to enable it respond to emerging demand during the course of the 2015/2016 school year.

Current number of posts in schools June 2015	11,154
Demand for 2015/2016 school year	11,820 (+666)
Previous cap	11,330
New cap following Government decision today	11,940 (+610)
Posts available to respond to emerging demand	120