

**Question on Notice**

**No. 49**

**Asked on 5 February 2020**

**MR J KRAUSE ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)**

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise (a) how many financial audits of schools were conducted by the department for the years 2015-16 to 2019-20 (to date) (reported separately by financial year) and (b) of those, how much money had to be repaid for issues uncovered in that audit process (reported by total and by year)?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Education does not conduct stand-alone financial audits of schools. Audits of schools are conducted by the department using a standard school audit program that reviews/checks a number of school management components, including finance. In addition, since 2018-19, a desktop health check of schools is undertaken, which includes an assessment of schools' financial management.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of school audits conducted (including full scope audits and follow-up audits)</b>	<b>Number of health checks conducted</b>
2015-16	430	
2016-17	312	
2017-18	244	
2018-19	358	85
2019-20 (year-to-date)	218	94

The department does not maintain records for repaid monies specifically as a result of a financial audit. Where a financial matter is identified requiring further investigation, it is referred to the department's Integrity and Employee Relations Unit for investigation and further action as deemed appropriate, which could include the requirement of monies to be repaid.