**Minister Stephen Farry, MLA, Minister for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland Executive**  
  
**Minister Farry** has been an MLA for North Down since 2007. He served as Alliance Party general secretary from 2000-2007. He has been Minister for the Department for Employment and Learning since May 2011  
  
**Political Career**He became a member of the North Down Borough Council in 1993, representing Abbey DEA until 2011. Dr Farry was deputy mayor from 2002-2003, and subsequently mayor in 2007-2008. He was a member for Community Relations Council from 2007-2011. He was also director of Bangor and Holywood Town Centre Management Ltd.  
  
**Education Background**Minister Farry graduated from Queen’s University, Belfast, with a BSSc (1st Class) in politics. He gained his PhD in international relations on the topic of the United Nations in the post-cold war era.  
  
He was a Senior Fellow of the United States Institute of Peace from 2005-2006. He has also acted as a consultant trainer for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Croatia and Bosnia.