

**To: Heads of higher education institutions  
in Wales providing initial teacher training  
courses (ITT)**

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Response By: No response required  
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**INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING: ADDITIONAL INSPECTORS**

I would like to notify you of HEFCW's intention, with support from Estyn, to withdraw from the administration of the training and deployment of Estyn additional inspectors (AIs) with effect from September 2005.

HEFCW fully acknowledges the benefits of involving additional inspectors, or any other element of peer assessment, in the inspection process. Indeed, this type of peer assessment had the desired effect of increasing the similarities between the systems of inspecting ITT and teaching quality assessment (TQA) in other subject areas in HE. We have been pleased with the positive response of ITT providers to the involvement of AIs within the first Estyn cycle of inspection, and recognise the benefits of their contribution to the inspection process to both institutions and school partnerships.

Having now moved to a process of *institutional* rather than subject-level review for overall quality assurance purposes, it is no longer possible to compare the Estyn inspection of ITT with quality assurance in other subject areas. Additionally, Estyn could choose to modify its practice of employing what are known as 'additional inspectors' for ITT provision in the future given that the new Estyn Common Inspection Framework includes provision for an element of 'peer assessment' across the entire framework.

Circular W03/21HE advised HEIs that administrative arrangements relating to additional inspectors had been streamlined for 2003/04 and that *all* administrative arrangements would be moved to Estyn within a three-year period. Accordingly, the Council and Estyn have agreed that all arrangements for the nomination, training and deployment of AIs will be wholly transferred to Estyn, affecting those who will be trained for deployment within the 2005/06 academic year. In view of this, HEFCW will cease to allocate funding directly to institutions and their partnership schools based on the involvement of individual staff members as AIs in the Estyn inspection process.

However, we intend to transfer the funding previously allocated to this activity to the ITT strategic funding mechanism from 2005/06 onwards. We will expect this funding to be used to facilitate the involvement of staff from HEIs and school partnerships as Estyn additional inspectors or peer assessors for ITT provision. Some of this additional strategic funding should be set aside to pass on to partnership schools for the training or deployment of staff, as required. The Council, through the annual monitoring process, will monitor involvement in this area over the course of an inspection cycle. Further details will be included in a future HEFCW circular on ITT strategy funding.

A timetable is being set up to ease the transition of all administrative arrangements relating to additional inspectors to Estyn. Whilst HEFCW will manage the remaining payments and relevant administrative arrangements within the current academic year, Estyn will write to institutions directly in March 2005 to seek nominations for the following academic year. Institutions will receive further information on how Estyn plans to take forward the nomination, training and deployment of additional inspectors or peer assessors in future years in Spring 2005.

If you have any queries, please contact Karen Jones at HEFCW on 029 2068 2283 or [karen.jones@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:karen.jones@hefcw.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely

Philip Gummatt