

**To: Heads of higher education
institutions in Wales**

Reference: W06/16HE
Date: 30 May 2006
Response By: None required
Further Information: Alison Allan Tel: 02920
682223 e-mail Alison.allan@hefcw.ac.uk

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING: RECONFIGURING PROVISION

Please find attached a copy of the remit letter which we have received from the Welsh Assembly Government on reconfiguring initial teacher training (ITT) provision. This follows the publication in January of the Review of Initial Teacher Training commissioned by the Assembly Government and the Minister's response to the report at the end of March.

As the ITT provider institutions concerned are aware, we have arranged a meeting with them on 8 June for an initial discussion on how to progress the work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Gummert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

PHILIP GUMMETT



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Professor Gummett
Chief Executive
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Linden Court
The Orchards
Illex Close
Llanishen
CARDIFF CF14 5DZ

Eich cyf . Your ref
Ein cyf . Our ref

22 May 2006

Dear Professor Gummett

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING: RECONFIGURING PROVISION

1. I am writing to you following the paper produced by the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills setting out how the Welsh Assembly Government intends to take forward changes in initial teacher training (ITT) provision in the light of Professor Furlong's report. As you know, this was discussed in the Education Committee on 29 March.
2. That paper set out an ITT Change Plan covering the short to medium term which aims to tackle a number of principal issues. One of these was a reduction in ITT course numbers; and another, consequential, issue was reconfiguring ITT provision.
3. On ITT course numbers, the Minister has indicated that we need fewer ITT places in the future if we are not to produce considerably more teachers than can gain employment in Wales or elsewhere. For the present our outline working assumptions will be the broad approach suggested in the Furlong report (i.e. compared with the 2004-05 numbers, primary provision to reduce by 50% and secondary by 25% by 2010-11).

Parc Cathays
Caerdydd
CF10 3NQ

Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Ffôn • Tel: 029 2080 1331
GTN: 1208
Ffacs • Fax: 029 2082 6109
Ebost • Email: philip.rogers@wales.gsi.gov.uk

4. Based on the outline working assumptions set out above we will also provide indicative targets for years from 2007-08 to 2010-11. We will aim to do this by the end of May. Although these figures will be very much in outline only and may be subject to noticeable changes depending on the outcomes of our examination of data collection improvements, for the time being HEFCW should work on the basis of the overall assumptions set out above. We will in the meantime carry out an interim assessment of numbers based on present information to help verify background data for setting the formal 2007-08 intake targets.

5. This letter concentrates on the issue of reconfiguring ITT provision. As our paper noted, given the reduction in ITT numbers envisaged there is a need to reconfigure ITT provision based on fewer individual providers than at present. Sharing the projected reduced ITT numbers amongst all the current providers is not a viable proposition. The Minister is therefore remitting HEFCW to produce for the Welsh Assembly Government a detailed plan (including the likely cost and timing) for a reconfiguration of HEI ITT providers in Wales (except for the Open University).

6. The plan should present proposals for the best organisation of providers and the range of courses in the revised structure and should:-

- (a) include proposals for concentrating a reduced level of ITT courses (pending further refinement in the light of additional data, based on current provision reducing year by year by 2010-11 by 50% (primary) and 25% (secondary) compared with 2004-05 targets) in a smaller number of centres, with the resources from the current amount of ITT provision considered necessary to run those courses in a sustainable manner retained;
- (b) ensure that there is a reasonable geographic spread of ITT provision in terms of location (although the plan need not attempt to have centres which all offered the same range of courses, particularly not across the board in both English and Welsh medium, if in the light of the reduced ITT intake numbers we expect to see in the future HEFCW considers that this would result in unsustainable provision);
- (c) assume that there will be reduced but selectively targeted undergraduate provision, aimed at protecting diverse access to and Welsh medium provision in primary courses;
- (d) consider whether within a reconfigured sector a measure of undergraduate secondary provision can be converted to postgraduate and remain sustainable; or whether in some subjects maintaining a viable throughput of students might require some highly selective undergraduate secondary provision in some subjects;
- (e) assume that the Graduate Teacher Programme is run through a minimum of two ITT providers, acting as Designated Recommending Bodies (i.e. overseeing the whole application and training process), and that once that is in place the intake numbers for the Graduate Teacher Programme will be included as part of the overall totals given to HEFCW each year to distribute to ITT providers;
- (f) indicate how any resources remaining from the current level of ITT provision could be redeployed, including provision to support workforce development in the following policy areas of the Welsh Assembly Government:

- Flying Start
- the Foundation Phase
- primary/secondary transition
- workforce remodelling
- 14-19 Learning Pathways
- lifelong learning and skills
- vocational education and training
- education counselling
- speech therapy.

Proposals for any reuse of provision in other education related courses could cover both the smaller number of ITT centres and any current ITT providers who it was proposed would not retain ITT work in the future, but HEFCW should ensure that the smaller number of ITT centres had a financially viable range of courses to ensure the continued operation of ITT;

- (g) indicate if the proposal allows for strengthening current educational research capacity in Wales; and
- (h) be worked up in close collaboration with the sector. This will include working with vice-chancellors of institutions, and where appropriate heads of schools of education, UCET Cymru and HEW. The views of other interested organisations, including the Care Council for Wales, the Early Years Advisory Panel, Fforwm, Lifelong Learning UK, the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, the Youth Service and Speech Therapists should also be taken into account.

7. In producing this plan HEFCW should ensure that it produces proposals for sustainable and cost-effective delivery of ITT and ITT-related work in the light of the projected reduction in intake numbers. HEFCW should also ensure that its plan does not destabilise HE institutions (although clearly some individual schools or courses may be affected adversely by proposals if they are to meet these over-arching demands).

8. HEFCW should produce by 31 July 2006 an interim report, setting out the progress made on proposals to reconfigure ITT provision. The final plan should be submitted by no later than 30 November 2006. If it is necessary in order to meet this date, it will be acceptable to provide estimates of costs, subject to later refinement (although in such cases HEFCW should indicate the basis for estimation and its timescale for producing firm data).

Yours sincerely

Philip J Rogers
Head of Practitioner Division - Higher Learning Group
Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills.