

Circular

Initial Teacher Training: Intake targets 2008/09

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To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales providing
initial teacher training courses
Response by: No response required
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This circular sets out the initial teacher training intake targets for the sector for 2008/09.

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Introduction

- 1 This circular sets out the initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for the sector for 2008/09.
- 2 The letter which we have received from the Welsh Assembly Government setting out the targets is attached at **Annex A**.

Sector ITT intake targets 2008/09

- 3 The letter from the Welsh Assembly Government outlines the basis for the intake targets for 2008/09, which has included taking account of preliminary outcomes from work on a Teacher Supply Model for Wales. As a result, there is a smaller decrease in primary intake targets for 2008/09 compared with the indicative targets issued by the Assembly Government in July 2006. The letter explains the reasons for the change, emphasising that it is an interim measure for 2008/09 only, while further work on the various factors affecting teacher supply is undertaken.
- 4 The overall secondary intake targets remain the same as the July 2006 indicative targets. The distribution between mathematics and science, other priority subjects and non-priority subjects includes the adjustment, which we informed you of by email in October 2007, to take account of English (including drama) no longer being a priority subject from 2008/09. While the letter refers to secondary intake targets for the Open University in Wales, these are not included in the intake target table.

Over-recruitment

- 5 The Assembly Government letter emphasises that, particularly in the context of reductions in intake numbers, efforts must continue to ensure that over-recruitment against targets does not occur. HEFCW has been asked to maintain financial and other efforts to prevent ITT providers from over-recruiting. We would therefore remind institutions that penalty arrangements remain in place for over-recruitment to primary provision. If an institution has substantially over-recruited, we may need to revisit the broad planning assumptions for the new ITT schools which we gave in October 2006, or the full availability of released numbers from the reductions in intake targets.

Institutional intake targets 2008/09

- 6 We will write to you in the new year with institutional intake target allocations. If appropriate, we may take into account information in the ITT Reconfiguration plans which we asked ITT providers to submit to us by 17 December. We are, however, anxious not to delay issuing the institutional targets for 2008/09 any more than absolutely necessary. You will note, as well, that for secondary numbers we have to put proposals for allocating these to the Assembly Government by the end of January. We

would hope to get details of institutional primary allocations to you before the end of January.

Further information

- 7 For further information, contact Alison Allan (tel 029 2068 2223; email alison.allan@hefcw.ac.uk).

Professor Philip Gummatt
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Eich cyf * Your ref
Ein cyf * Our ref SF/JH/5130/07

13 December 2007

Dear Professor Gummatt

INTAKE TARGETS FOR INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING 2008/09

1. I am writing to let you know the intake targets for initial teacher training (ITT) for the 2008/09 academic year.

Background

2. The Welsh Assembly Government's ITT Change Plan aims to restructure ITT so that intake targets, courses and course availability can deliver teachers with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) to better meet the needs of maintained schools in Wales. Based on the Review of ITT Provision and the information available at the time, our outline working assumptions for reductions in ITT numbers have been that compared with the 2004/05 numbers, overall primary provision would reduce by 50% and secondary by 25% by 2010/11.

3. To support the ITT Change Plan, we have provided indicative intake targets for the years from 2007/08 up to 2010/11. These were updated in September to take account of the fact that English is no longer a priority subject from 2008/09.

4. In producing this plan we have emphasised that the figures are very much in outline only and might be subject to noticeable changes depending on e.g. the outcomes of our examination of data collection improvements and of HEFCW's reconfiguration work.

Detail

5. For primary numbers in 2008/09 our outline plan showed a total of 850 places (a reduction of 100 compared with 2007/08), of which 440 were undergraduate places (-80) and 410 postgraduate (-20).

6. For secondary numbers in 2008/09 our outline plan showed a total of 1,175 places (a reduction of 65 compared with 2007/08), of which 130 were undergraduate places (-13) and 1,045 postgraduate (-52).

7. The Welsh Assembly Government's updated ITT Change Plan work programme for 2007-08 (the short term plan) included our Statistical Directorate working on developing a possible Teacher Supply Model (TSM) which is specific to Wales. This work is looking at evaluating the feasibility and likely resource implications of running a Welsh TSM. The 2007-08 short term plan also included consideration of modifications to the outline plan for reductions in ITT numbers up to 2010/11 in the light of data collection information from the work on a possible TSM for Wales.

8. A TSM model has been constructed and has been run on a pilot basis. We think the TSM is soundly constructed in terms of its overall design, but there is an absence of reliable or trend data in some areas which means that at present the outputs are not yet robust enough for detailed forecasts up to 2010/11 and beyond. We will be looking at ways in which we might overcome this.

9. However, large areas of data are firm and we have looked at the TSM output to see how far it might inform consideration of intake targets for 2008/09. The output from the TSM and other available data seems to confirm that the reductions proposed for secondary numbers are in the right sort of area to deliver newly qualified teachers in suitable numbers to meet the needs of maintained schools in Wales. We do not see any reason at this stage to alter the existing secondary ITT intake target projections.

10. The position for primary numbers is less clear-cut. Some data (such as projections for pupil numbers where the steep fall of the last few years is slowing and will start to rise gradually after 2010-11) might suggest that in comparison with the present projected reductions, a shallower path might be needed. Other evidence, such as the application numbers for vacancies, suggests that over-supply is still the present situation. Information on wastage rates (in particular, numbers who gain QTS but who do not go into teaching, and teachers who do not join or leave the Welsh teacher workforce to teach elsewhere in the UK) and re-entrants (people with QTS who were out of teaching in maintained schools in Wales but who then come back to take up posts again) which impact on the output figures are areas where we need to get further data or do more analysis.

11. At this stage we do not think that the data provides reliable enough evidence to alter the existing primary ITT intake target projections up to 2010-11. However, the projected reduction of 100 places compared with 2007/08 is part of a run of significantly larger changes. At this stage before making a much larger change we would like to see outputs from the TSM with additional data and a further analysis of the data we currently hold in order to make a firmer projection for intake targets in 2009/10, and onwards beyond 2010/11.

12. We are, therefore, proposing at present an interim change in the primary numbers, for 2008/09 only, from the 2007/08 figure of 950 to 900. At this stage, we would want to retain flexibility by making the most of postgraduate numbers. These would remain at the 2007/08 figure of 430. Undergraduate numbers would reduce from 520 to 470 (-50). I should emphasise that this change relates to the 2008/09 figures only; at present we are not amending the outline working assumptions for reductions in ITT numbers that compared with the 2004/05 numbers, overall primary provision would reduce by 50% by 2010/11

Open University

13. These intake targets do not include provision for the Open University (OU) in Wales. For the purposes of intake target setting, we have agreed at official level already that the OU can recruit up to 25 places each academic year. Broken down by priority groupings, these will be 12 maths and science places, 12 PGCE other priority places and 1 PGCE non-priority place – with permission to vire one place from PGCE other priority to PGCE non-priority in the light of demand. These figures are not shown in the annex attached to this letter.

Action

14. The primary and secondary intake targets for ITT for the 2008/09 academic year are set out in the table in the annex attached. This also shows a breakdown of secondary subjects into three groupings to reflect the priority subjects and the differing levels of incentives which are available. These targets are derived from the Welsh Assembly Government's forecast demand for newly qualified teachers to which the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales is required to have regard under section 86(6) of the Education Act 2005.

15. Providers will have been aware of our outline plan for reductions in ITT numbers and their planned recruitment assumptions for 2008/09 should have been made on that basis. Providers should have their attention drawn to the fact that the secondary targets for 2008/09 are in line with the outline plan and that the primary targets show a change.

16. These targets do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets. We cover the issue of targets in our separate letter on the recommendations arising from the review of Welsh medium ITT provision. HEFCW is asked to continue to encourage institutions to develop Welsh medium provision where possible.

17. As in previous years, the targets are only provided for the total primary and secondary targets, sub-divided between undergraduate and postgraduate. The only additional sub-divisions are between secondary postgraduate targets for priority (maths and science) subjects, other priority subjects and non-priority subjects. HEFCW will be aware that for 2008/09 the priority secondary postgraduate subjects are mathematics, science, modern languages, design

and technology, ICT, Welsh (first and second language), music and RE. English (including drama) is no longer a priority subject.

18. Taking these targets, HEFCW is asked to consider (in the light of the intake targets notified to it last year, its own allocations to providers for 2007/08, actual recruitment to courses, course availability for 2008/09, and other relevant factors) how it proposes to allocate these numbers between providers; and in the case of secondary targets, between subjects. For primary numbers, we are content for HEFCW to allocate them to providers as soon as possible and to notify us when this is done. For secondary numbers, HEFCW should write to Practitioner Division by no later than 31 January 2008 with proposals for allocating these numbers between providers for agreement by this office. In considering proposals, we are content for HEFCW to exercise its discretion regarding virement providing it is within the limits set out in the annex attached.

19. The Minister would like to reinforce the message that, particularly in the context of reductions in intake numbers, efforts must continue to be made to ensure that over-recruitment against targets does not occur. HEFCW is asked to maintain its financial and other efforts to prevent ITT providers from over-recruiting.

Yours sincerely

Philip J Rogers
Head of Practitioner Division
Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Intake targets 2008/09

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	total
Primary	470	430	900
Secondary	130	1045	1175
Total	600	1475	2075
<u>Secondary PGCE subjects</u>			
<i>Priority group 1</i>			
Mathematics; Science		270	
<i>Priority group 2</i>			
Modern Languages; Welsh; Design & Technology; ICT; Music; RE		360	
<i>Other subjects</i>			
English (including drama); History; Geography; PE; Art; Business studies; Outdoor		415	

Virement flexibility

- No virement into the undergraduate or postgraduate primary target totals.
- Up to 5% virement flexibility into the undergraduate secondary target total from the undergraduate primary target total.
- Up to 5% virement flexibility into the postgraduate secondary other subjects target total from the postgraduate primary target total.
- No virement out of the postgraduate secondary other subjects target total.
- No virement into or out of the postgraduate secondary priority group 1 target total.
- No virement into or out of the postgraduate secondary priority group 2 target total.