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Circular

Initial Teacher Training: Intake Targets 2010/11

Date: 23 November 2009
Reference: W09/38HE
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 2010/11.

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Introduction

- 1 This circular sets out the initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for the sector for 2010/11.
- 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 2010/11

- 3 The letter from the Welsh Assembly Government outlines the basis for the intake targets for 2010/11, which has included taking account of information from the continuing work on the Teacher Planning and Supply Model (TPSM) for Wales.
- 4 As in 2008/09 and 2009/10, there is a smaller decrease in primary intake targets for 2010/11 compared with the indicative targets issued by the Assembly Government in July 2006. Within this total, PGCE numbers have been increased and undergraduate numbers (UG) decreased, although UG numbers remain higher than originally envisaged.
- 5 For PGCE secondary, there has also been a lesser decrease than that given in the July 2006 indicative targets. UG Secondary targets are as projected in 2006.
- 6 The main change to the PGCE secondary targets is the revised grouping of subjects reflecting the recently announced changes to ITT incentive payments and teaching grants from 2010/11. Subjects are now grouped into Priority group (which itself has two sub-sections), Main Incentive group and Other subjects. There are a smaller number of subjects within the Priority group. Whereas previously, Science had an overall intake target, Chemistry and Physics have now been placed in Priority Group sub-section 1, and Biology and General/Integrated Science in the Main Incentive group. English and Drama have also been separated with English in the Main Incentive group and Drama in Other subjects. In determining the intake targets, we will draw on recruitment data which is split down into the individual subject areas to help determine targets for 2010/11. It is our intention to give a combined target for Chemistry and Physics, although we would draw your attention to the Welsh Assembly Government's wish to see Physics course numbers protected as far as possible (Annex A, paragraph 22).
- 7 In its letter, the Welsh Assembly Government has given indicative targets for 2011/12 and 2012/13, although it emphasises that these may be subject to change.

Released numbers

- 8 The Welsh Assembly Government's letter notes that 2010/11 will be the last year in which any new released numbers will be available from reductions in ITT intake targets. We expect there to be some continued feed through, however, as reductions in UG ITT courses work through the system.
- 9 Released numbers should be used for other HE education-related courses which fit with the proposals in your ITT reconfiguration plans which we have agreed with you. If an institution wishes to change or modify its portfolio of provision using released numbers, please contact Alison Allan to discuss, so that we can assure the Assembly Government that the provision continues to meet its priorities.

Over-recruitment

- 10 The Assembly Government letter notes that it would like HEFCW to maintain its efforts to ensure that over-recruitment against intake targets does not occur. We would remind you that revised penalty arrangements for over-recruitment to primary provision apply to intake targets from 2010/11 onwards (see Circular W09/3HE). For recruitment in 2010/11 therefore the following applies:
 - If an institution and/or Centre over-recruits by more than 5% or five students (whichever is the greater) against its primary intake target in 2010/11 at either undergraduate or postgraduate level, a 5% reduction will be applied to its intake target for that level for the following year. This is regardless of whether or not the institution has recruited above these limits in 2009/10. These intakes will not be returned to the institution after the penalty year.
 - There will also be a penalty for more significant over-recruitment. Thus, if an institution and/or Centre over-recruits by more than 10 per cent in one year at either undergraduate or postgraduate level, its target for that level for the following year will be cut by 10%. This penalty would be reduced to 5% in the year after, provided that the institution has not again over-recruited above the specified limits. Therefore if an institution/Centre breaches this threshold in 2010/11, the penalty will be applied to its intake target for 2011/12.

For this penalty there will be no leeway for rounding down. Immediately the over-recruitment is over 10% by any fraction, the penalty will be applied, even if the exact calculation of the 10% would not give a whole number of students.

- 11 We are aware that the current economic climate may well mean improved recruitment to secondary courses. While this could be a welcome development for shortage subjects where it has in the past proved difficult to recruit to target, we would ask you to guard against over-recruitment, particularly in subjects which traditionally are more popular. Institutions are reminded that, because of the demand-led nature of the student finance budget, there could well be financial implications for the Welsh Assembly Government budget arising from the recruitment of full-time students over and above HEFCW funded places.

Institutional/Centre intake targets 2010/11

- 12 Two of the three new Centres of Teacher Education came into existence in 2009/10 (the South West Wales Centre for Teacher Education and the South East Wales Centre of Teacher Education). As it was their first year of operation, when publishing the intake targets for 2009/10, we provided intake targets for the Centre but we also showed a breakdown as it would have been for the individual institutions. However, we stated that thereafter we would expect to show Centre targets only (Circular W08/38HE).
- 13 We also indicated that we would follow a similar approach for the North and Mid Wales Centre (Aberystwyth University and Bangor University) which will come into operation from 2010/11. We will therefore show the breakdown in intake targets for these two institutions for 2010/11 and Centre targets in future years. An exception may be those subject areas where provision will be located at both partners where it might be more appropriate to show a single target in 2010/11 and for the partners to determine distribution between them.
- 14 We will write to you in the new year with the institutional/Centre intake target allocations. You will note that for secondary numbers we have to put proposals for allocating these to the Assembly Government by the end of January 2010. We would hope to get details of institutional primary allocations to you before the end of January.

Further information

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



Professor Philip Gummatt
Chief Executive
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Linden Court
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Annex A

Eich cyf • Your ref:

Ein cyf • Our ref:

19 November 2009

Dear Professor Gummatt

INTAKE TARGETS FOR INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING 2010/11

1. I am writing to let you know the intake targets for initial teacher training (ITT) for the 2010/11 academic year.
2. We are also providing indicative targets for the following two academic years. We expect to do this on an annual basis from now on. I should emphasise that at this stage these are projections of possible targets; there is no guarantee that these numbers will be the actual intake targets set. However, they are based on best presently available information, and we hope that the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and the ITT providers find them helpful.

Background

3. 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. To support the ITT Change Plan, we have previously provided indicative intake targets for the years from 2007/08 up to 2010/11. These have been updated on several occasions. In producing these indicative intake targets 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.
4. The Welsh Assembly Government's Statistical Directorate has continued to work on developing a Teacher Planning and Supply Model (TPSM) for Wales. Additional TPSM work this year has been looking at areas where we had insufficient



data, particularly on wastage rates and previous teachers re-entering the profession. The Statistical Directorate have established data collection requirements with the General Teaching Council for Wales to provide additional information, although as this is new it will be several years before firm trends can be established.

Detail – primary

5. The intake targets for the current 2009/10 academic year for primary are 775 (405 postgraduate (PG) and 370 undergraduate (UG)). For primary, the last couple of years has indicated that the initial projected scale of reductions in ITT numbers was not going to be put into effect. In 2007 we said that some data indications suggested that a shallower reduction path might be needed, and we reduced numbers by less than previously indicated. In 2008 we said that demographic changes which were starting to result in increased pupil numbers meant that the reduction proposed at the outset of the ITT Change Plan of 50% from 2004-05 would now be too steep and we again cut back the scale of reductions.

6. The TPSM's latest outputs indicate a trend of increasing teacher numbers being required; underlying factors are rising pupil numbers and the latest data on wastage rates and re-entrants. The TPSM projections show that with any further significant reduction in numbers from the current 2009/10 intake, particularly in PG numbers, we would increasingly be relying on re-entrants coming in and that the pool of these would be used up quite quickly by about 2012/13-2013/14.

7. Although the current primary recruitment situation does not present problems overall (applications figures for advertised primary posts are still high), at this stage we think we need to place more weight on projections for future years as they are showing that primary numbers are approaching a point where any further cutting back now might present some serious difficulties in the future. Additionally, as we have only recently established data provision in some key areas, and thus cannot be certain of these projections, it would be a risky approach to assume that the present reasonable supply position could not worsen.

8. In view of all this, for primary for 2010/11 our approach is to increase the number of PG places and decrease the number of UG places, as PG places provide more flexibility and their much shorter lead-in time to teaching will enable us to react more effectively and earlier to demand changes. We are proposing to reduce UG numbers by 45 places, of which 25 places are reallocated to PG. This will provide 330 UG and 425 PG, giving a primary intake target of 755.

9. We are also provisionally indicating a further shift on these lines in 2011/12 and 2012/13 of another 30 places being reallocated each year between phases, plus an additional 20 PG places from 2011/12, within an overall intake of 775. When we have an additional year's worth of data in autumn 2010 we will look at this again and whether we might need to go further than this.

Detail – secondary

10. The intake targets for the current 2009/10 academic year for secondary are 1,100 (1,000 PG and 100 UG), plus a small number of Open University places. For secondary, the TPSM outputs show that if numbers were not reduced in response to the falling number of teachers required (as a consequence of falling pupil numbers which are now starting to impact on secondary provision) the number of ITT entrants produced would be noticeably higher than the number of vacancies, assuming the current wastage rate. The projected over-supply would rise above 200 in 2011/12, going to about 350 by 2013/14. In view of this we think we need to reduce the secondary numbers from 2010/11 to better fit with the pupil number changes, and propose reducing them to 1,045 (945 PG and 100 UG).

11. Additionally, all the TPSM outputs to a greater or lesser extent highlight a longer term issue, where the projected over-supply drops away noticeably in 2016/17 and again in 2017/18. For the much longer term we may need to make upward adjustments in intake numbers. We are indicating provisionally that to provide a base for this we will increase the secondary numbers from 2012/13, to 1,100 (1,000 PG and 100 UG).

Graduate Teacher Programme

12. Although we are proposing that in the future they will part of the normal intake target process, these intake targets do not yet include provision for the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP). For information, however, you will wish to note that we will be looking at whether the 2010/11 round of GTP allocations should show numbers moving from secondary to primary. Decisions on this will be taken in the early part of 2010.

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 previously agreed that the OU can recruit up to 25 places each academic year. Broken down by the groupings which are set out in the annex, these will be 8 secondary priority group subsection 1 places; 8 secondary priority group subsection 2 places; and 9 PGCE main incentive places – with permission to vire from PGCE priority to PGCE main incentive 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 2010/11 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. The priority subjects themselves are split into two sub-sections, reflecting the two different levels of teaching grant related to these subjects. These intake targets are derived from the Welsh Assembly Government's forecast demand for newly qualified teachers to which HEFCW is required to have regard under section 86(6) of the Education Act 2005.

15. Providers should have their attention drawn to the fact that the secondary intake groupings have some significant differences for 2010/11, reflecting the recent changes announced to the ITT incentives. As in previous years, the priority intake

group has two subsections; subsection 1 now comprises mathematics; chemistry and physics; and subsection 2 contains information and communications technology (ICT); design and technology; and Welsh. The main incentive group covers music; religious education; modern foreign languages; English; geography; and biology and general / integrated science. The other secondary subject group comprises history; PE; art; business studies; drama; and outdoor activities.

16. Providers should be asked to note in particular that the secondary groupings have the introduction of a split within the science subject specialism. The priority incentive science subjects are now chemistry and physics only; biology and general / integrated science are now in the main incentive group. Chemistry and physics subjects can be linked with wider science content, but only courses where chemistry or physics are the main component would qualify for inclusion in the priority subject intake grouping. Providers will need to be certain that they make the specialism and type of course clear to all trainees from the outset – this would normally be in the title of the course.

17. Similarly, providers should be asked to note that drama is no longer coupled with English. A secondary postgraduate course in drama would now be included in the 'other secondary subjects' category.

18. We have also provided indicative targets for 2011/12 and 2012/13 for general planning purposes. It should be emphasised that these are not firm targets and are subject to change in the light of circumstances.

19. As in previous years, numbers are only provided for the total primary and secondary targets, sub-divided between undergraduate and postgraduate. The only additional sub-divisions, for 2010/11, are between the various secondary postgraduate subject grouping targets. These targets do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets. HEFCW is asked to continue to encourage institutions to develop Welsh medium provision where possible.

20. Since 2006/07, ITT numbers released could be recycled into alternative education provision in line with the agreed ITT reconfiguration plans. For 2010/11, primary numbers will fall by 20 places, and secondary numbers will fall by 55 places. We are content for HEFCW to reallocate numbers to providers in its usual way. HEFCW should ensure that providers are aware that, as previously indicated, 2010/11 is the last year in which any new ITT numbers which might be released can be recycled in this way.

21. Taking the intake targets for 2010/11 set out in the annex, HEFCW is asked to consider (in the light of the intake targets notified to it last year, its own allocations to providers for 2009/10, actual recruitment to courses, course availability for 2010/11, reconfiguration plans and other relevant factors) how it proposes to allocate these numbers between providers; and in the case of secondary targets, between subjects. HEFCW will need to allocate the intake targets to the developing reconfigured ITT Centres.

22. 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 Learning Improvement and Professional Development Division by no later than 31 January 2010 with proposals for allocating these numbers between providers for agreement by this office. In considering proposals, we would like to see physics course numbers protected as far as possible. We are content for HEFCW to exercise its discretion regarding virement providing it is within the limits set out in the annex attached.

23. The Minister would like to reinforce the message that efforts must continue to be made to ensure that over-recruitment against targets does not occur. We would be grateful if HEFCW could maintain its efforts to help avoid ITT providers over-recruiting, at both primary and secondary levels.

Yours sincerely

ALUN HUWS
Learning Improvement & Professional Development Division

Annex

Intake targets 2010/11

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	total
Primary	330	425	755
Secondary	100	945	1,045
Total	430	1,370	1,800
<u>Secondary PGCE subjects</u>			
<i>Priority group subsection 1</i>			
Mathematics; chemistry; and physics		155	
<i>Priority group subsection 2</i>			
Information and communications technology (ICT); design & technology; and Welsh		155	
<i>Main incentive group</i>			
Music; religious education; modern foreign languages; English; geography; and biology and general / integrated science		410	
<i>Other subjects</i>			
History; PE; art; business studies; dance & drama; and outdoor activities		225	

Virement flexibility

Individual target totals listed above should be maintained, except that up to 5% virement flexibility is allowed for the following:-

- between the postgraduate secondary priority group subsections 1 and 2 target totals (subject to physics intake numbers being protected as far as possible)
- out of the postgraduate secondary priority group subsection 2 target total into the postgraduate secondary main incentive group target total
- between the postgraduate secondary main incentive group and the postgraduate secondary other subjects target totals.

**Indicative intake targets
2011/12**

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	total
Primary	300	475	775
Secondary	100	945	1,045
Total	400	1,420	1,820

**Indicative intake targets
2012/13**

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	total
Primary	270	505	775
Secondary	100	1,000	1,100
Total	370	1,505	1,875