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Circular

Initial Teacher Training: Intake targets 2012/13

Date: 07 October 2011
Reference: W11/34HE
To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales providing
initial teacher training courses
Response by: No response required
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This circular gives the initial teacher training intake targets for the sector for 2012/13.

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Introduction

- 1 This circular gives the initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for the sector for 2012/13.
- 2 The letter which we have received from the Welsh Government setting out the targets is attached at **Annex A**.

Sector ITT intake targets 2012/13

- 3 The letter from the Welsh Government outlines the basis for the intake targets for 2012/13, which has included taking account of outputs from the Teacher Planning and Supply Model (TPSM) for Wales.
- 4 Sector primary intake target numbers remain unchanged from 2011/12.
- 5 Following the small decrease in secondary intake targets in 2011/12, there is a more significant decrease of 100 in PGCE secondary numbers in 2012/13. This reflects projected declines in secondary pupil numbers over the next few years. The Welsh Government will consider a possible further reduction of another 50 intakes in 2013/14, subject to a further analysis of updated data next year. Secondary undergraduate targets are unchanged from 2011/12.
- 6 Secondary PGCE targets have been shown in two groupings: Priority subjects and Other subjects. Within the overall PGCE reduction, a lesser reduction has been applied to the Priority subjects grouping than to Other subjects. You will note that the Welsh Government's letter refers to the Minister's focus on literacy and numeracy in action to raise school standards. In this context, Mathematics and Welsh are already catered for by their status as priority subjects. However, the Welsh Government has also asked us to protect English numbers to some degree from the full rate of reduction to Secondary PGCE targets.
- 7 Providers should not assume that the allocation of PGCE subjects to the two groupings implies that any ITT incentives or teaching grants will be available for those on courses in 2012/13. The Welsh Government will write to the sector separately about this.
- 8 For Secondary Undergraduate provision, HEFCW will write to providers before the end of the year about secondary undergraduate placement grants which have hitherto been made available through ITT strategy funding. As already indicated, while HEFCW has agreed to make funding available to providers for these grants for students on the third year of their course in 2012/13, providers should not assume or give other students or prospective students any expectation that such grants will be available in future.

- 9 The Welsh Government has asked us to remind you that 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 subjects intake grouping.
- 10 This principle of the main component in a science course also applies to biology and therefore you should make clear whether a course has biology as the main or only component, or whether it is a designated general/combined/integrated science course. You will need make certain that the specialism in all science courses – whether it is chemistry, physics or biology – and the type of course is clear to all trainees from the outset.
- 11 While the intake targets do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets, we would encourage you to develop and offer Welsh medium provision wherever possible. This is important to meet the demand for well-trained and qualified Welsh medium teachers in schools. We will work with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and providers as appropriate in considering the maintenance and viability of Welsh medium provision in ITT and its further development.
- 12 The Welsh Government has not given indicative targets for 2013/14 and 2014/15 at this stage, although, as already noted, a further reduction of 50 PGCE secondary intakes in 2013/14 is likely. The starting point for the consideration of primary intakes for 2013/14 is that these will remain unchanged. However, the Welsh Government letter stresses that actual intake targets will be dependent on its analysis of updated data in due course.

Over-recruitment

- 13 The Welsh Government letter notes that it would like HEFCW to maintain its efforts to ensure that over-recruitment against intake targets does not occur at either primary or secondary level. We would remind you of the penalty arrangements which apply to over-recruitment against **primary** intake targets. These are set out below, as they will apply to recruitment in 2012/13.
- If a Centre of Teacher Education over-recruits by more than 5% or five students (whichever is the greater) against its primary intake target in 2012/13 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 Centre has recruited above these limits in 2011/12. These intakes will not be returned to the Centre after the penalty year.
 - There is also a penalty for more significant over-recruitment. Thus, if a Centre of Teacher Education 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 a Centre breaches this threshold in 2012/13, the penalty will be applied to its intake target for 2013/14.

- In determining whether this penalty will be applied, there will be no rounding. Immediately the over-recruitment is over 10% by any fraction, the penalty will be applied. For example: An institution has an intake target of 58. The calculation of 10% over-recruitment is 5.8 full-time equivalent students. The institution over-recruits against its target by six students (10.3%). Arguments that the institution could not have recruited 0.8 of a student for an ITT course or that the 10.3% should be rounded to 10% would not be accepted. The 10% over-recruitment threshold has been breached and therefore the penalty will be applied.

- 14 We would ask that you also guard against over-recruitment in **secondary** courses, particularly in subjects which traditionally are more popular. We will monitor recruitment to ITT secondary courses and will consider action should over-recruitment become an issue. Institutions are reminded that, because of the demand-led nature of the student finance budget, from 2010/11 controls have been in place at institutional level on the recruitment of full-time/PGCE students (see Circular W10/33HE). Circular W11/18HE, *Consultation on proposed changes to the teaching funding mechanism for higher education in Wales*, covers penalty arrangements for over-recruitment. The outcomes of this consultation will be published in the near future. We are also considering appropriate monitoring and controls on ITT recruitment more generally in the light of the introduction of the new student fees regime from 2012/13.

Open University in Wales intake targets

- 15 PGCE secondary targets for the Open University will be as set out in paragraph 12 of the Welsh Government's letter.

Centre intake targets 2012/13

- 16 We are unlikely to be able to issue finalised Centre ITT intake target allocations until early in the New Year when we will have verified recruitment data for 2011/12, as part of the Higher Education Early Student Statistics (HESES) exercise. You will note that for secondary numbers we have to put proposals for Centre allocations to the Welsh Government by the end of January 2012 at the latest.
- 17 Given that sector **primary PGCE and undergraduate targets** are unchanged, Centres may assume that they will receive the same targets as

for 2011/12 **provided that they have not breached the over-recruitment limits** for primary numbers in 2011/12 (or, although unlikely, provided there is not significant under-recruitment). If a Centre has breached over-recruitment limits, it may be that the other Centres will gain a small number of additional targets.

- 18 Intake targets for **secondary undergraduate** provision can be expected to be similar to 2011/12, provided that there is not significant **under- or over-recruitment** in particular subjects which we may need to take into account in distributing targets across subjects.
- 19 We are concerned, however, that the Centres should have some earlier understanding of the way in which the reduction in **PGCE secondary** intake targets may affect targets for the subjects within their portfolios. We intend in the near future to share informally with the Centres estimated PGCE secondary intake targets based on application of the reduction of 100 intakes. This would give us an opportunity to seek the Centres' views about the spread of the reductions and any implications for their portfolios which they would wish to discuss with us. We would emphasise though that any such targets would be **purely indicative**. Some changes can be expected once finalised recruitment data for 2011/12 is received, particularly if there is under-recruitment against particular subject targets. However, providers will be aware of their own recruitment position and therefore will be able to make some judgements about how this may affect their final targets.

Released numbers

- 20 We confirmed in Circular W09/38HE that 2010/11 would be the last year in which any new released numbers would be available from reductions in ITT intake targets. As indicated in Circular W11/30HE, *Redistribution Exercise*, from 2012/13 credit values and funding associated with these numbers will no longer be separately ring-fenced in ASC 11b but will be rolled into mainstream funding.

Further information

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



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Eich cyf • Your ref:

Ein cyf • Our ref:

3 October 2011

Dear Dr Blaney

INTAKE TARGETS FOR INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING 2012/13

1. I am writing to let you know the intake targets for initial teacher training (ITT) for the 2012/13 academic year.

Background

2. We have been looking for some time now at likely future demand for newly qualified teachers in maintained schools against the background of projected changes in pupil numbers over the next few years. A series of meetings and discussions have taken place between Welsh Government and HEFCW officers over the last few months to consider the implications and examine options.

3. Previous teacher demand analysis has been updated with the following work:-

- (a) the data on applications received for teaching posts in primary and secondary schools has been updated to reflect the 2010 calendar year figures and we have run a median analysis to provide a better picture for the position in Wales;
- (b) the pupil projection figures have been updated with the results from the School Census 2011, based on the school population of Wales at January 2011 and covering the period between 2010/11 and 2019/20;
- (c) we have been working with the Statistical Directorate on the production of updated Teacher Planning and Supply Model (TPSM) projections. These take account of updated data on teacher and pupil numbers which



became available in June/July from the STATS3 survey of local authorities, the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) and the General Teaching Council for Wales; and

- (d) we have also been looking at recording more precisely the potential availability of ITT completers for teaching posts in Wales within the TPSM. This work takes into account information on ITT students' domicile from data on ITT in Wales, based on statistics produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), and data on destinations of students completing ITT courses in Wales which comes from the destinations of leavers from higher education survey produced by HESA.

Detail – primary

4. The latest (2010) median figures for applications for advertised primary teaching positions are 16 per post (English medium at 24 per post and Welsh medium at 8 per post). The median application numbers show a rise from 2008, which may be connected with the downturn in economic circumstances and a greater interest in what would be regarded as more secure jobs.

5. The latest published projections for pupil numbers (based on the school population of Wales at January 2011) show primary pupil numbers rising by 21,900 between 2010/11 and 2019/20. These latest projections show primary pupil numbers rising slightly faster and higher than indicated in the 2010 figures. This is due to the actual number of primary school pupils at January 2011 being slightly more than projected at this point last year.

6. A baseline projection from the TPSM for the period 2011/12 – 2019/20 using the various updated data outlined in paragraph 3 above shows that without changes there would be usage of all available primary ITT entrants, and reliance on large numbers of re-entrants to fill positions. Taking all the issues into account, our view is that there seems to be no case for any further reductions in the primary ITT numbers for the 2012/13 intake compared with 2011/12. The numbers seeking posts are not at the levels which the mean (simple averaging) figures would suggest, and projected rising pupil numbers should increase the numbers of posts needed to be filled.

7. Against this background, maintaining primary ITT numbers at current levels is considered the best option to provide appropriate intake numbers. We therefore propose to keep primary ITT numbers at the present level for 2012/13, and will consider the position beyond that on the basis of a further analysis next year using the next round of updated figures.

Detail – secondary

8. The latest (2010) median figures for application for advertised secondary teaching positions are 8 per post (English medium at 9 per post and Welsh medium at 4 per post). The rise in median application numbers from 2008 is less marked than in primary.

9. The latest published projections for pupil numbers (again based on the school population of Wales at January 2011) show secondary pupil numbers falling by 9,100 between 2010/11 and 2019/20. This overall figure contains a steeper

decline in numbers in the next few years of 17,000 by 2016-17 and rising numbers thereafter (+8,000 in three years). These latest projections show secondary pupil numbers with a shallower and lesser fall than previously projected, and a faster rise from 2016/17 onwards. This is due to the actual number of secondary school pupils at January 2011 being over 1,000 more than projected at this point last year.

10. A baseline projection from the TPSM for the period 2011/12 – 2019/20 using the various updated data outlined in paragraph 3 above shows that without changes there would be an under-utilisation of available ITT entrants up to 2014-15 and no significant usage of re-entrants until 2016-17, reflecting the impact of decreasing pupil numbers in secondary.

11. Our conclusion, taking all these issues into account, is that 2012/13 secondary intake numbers need to be reduced further. We have considered various options in relation to this, in discussion with HEFCW officers. Based on present information, we think that a reduction of 150 places in secondary numbers is required. From this total, we are proposing a reduction of 100 postgraduate secondary places from the 2012/13 intake compared with 2011/12. We will consider a possible further reduction of an additional 50 places in 2013/14 on the basis of further analysis next year using updated figures.

Open University

12. The intake targets detailed here do not include provision for the Open University (OU) in Wales, although we have taken account of OU secondary numbers in TPSM projections. For the purposes of intake target setting, we are proposing that the OU should continue to be allowed to recruit up to 25 places each academic year. Broken down by the groupings which are set out in the annex, for 2012/13 these will be 19 secondary priority subject group places; and 6 secondary other subject group places – with permission to vire up to a maximum of 5 places from the priority subject group to the other subject group in the light of demand. These figures are not shown in the annex attached to this letter.

Graduate Teacher Programme

13. These intake targets detailed here also do not include provision for the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP), although, again, we take account of these numbers in the TPSM process. As you may know, following a consultation on changes to the administration of the employment-based teacher training programme, a revised statutory scheme – the Employment-based Teacher Training Scheme 2011 – has been signed by the Minister for Education and Skills, and comes into effect for GTP placements starting from 1 September 2012. Under this Scheme, GTP numbers will be issued direct by us to ITT providers. Decisions on GTP numbers are likely to be announced in early 2012.

Action

14. The primary and secondary intake targets for ITT for the 2012/13 academic year are set out in the table in the annex attached. Numbers are provided for the total primary and secondary targets, sub-divided between undergraduate and postgraduate. The figures also show a breakdown of secondary subjects into two groupings. HEFCW is asked to note that the breakdown of intake numbers does not imply that any ITT incentives or teaching grants will be available for those on

courses in 2012/13; we will write separately about this. These intake targets are derived from the Welsh Government's forecast demand for newly qualified teachers to which HEFCW, in exercising its functions, is required to have regard to under section 86(6)(a) of the Education Act 2005.

15. HEFCW is requested to issue a copy of this letter to ITT providers as soon as possible, so that they are aware of the overall changes and the background to them.

16. As in previous years, the targets in the attached annex do not include separate Welsh medium intake targets. HEFCW is requested to continue to encourage institutions to develop and offer Welsh medium provision where possible and to consider the viability of Welsh medium provision, working with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol as appropriate.

17. Providers should be reminded that secondary 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.

18. We have not included here indicative targets for the following two academic years for general planning purposes. As indicated, a starting point for considering intake targets in 2013/14 will be that primary numbers continue unchanged and that there would be a further reduction of an additional 50 places in secondary. However, in both cases we will be undertaking a further analysis next year using the next round of updated figures, and the actual intake figures for 2013/14 may be different from these starting points.

19. Taking the intake targets for 2012/13 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 2011/12, course availability for 2012/13 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 reconfigured ITT Centres.

20. 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 as early as possible, but by no later than 31 January 2012, with proposals for allocating these numbers between providers for agreement by this office.

21. In considering the allocation of secondary numbers, HEFCW should bear in mind the Minister's focus on literacy and numeracy in action to raise school standards. Mathematics and Welsh (where there are a range of supporting factors) are included in the priority subjects group, and the numbers there have been reduced by less than the overall secondary rate of reduction. On the same basis, HEFCW is asked to protect English numbers to some degree from the full rate of reduction to secondary PGCE targets.

22. 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 and Professional Development Division

Annex

Intake targets 2012/13

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	total
Primary	300	450	750
Secondary	95	835	930
Total	395	1,285	1,680

Secondary PGCE subjects

Priority subjects

mathematics; chemistry; physics;
modern foreign languages; and
Welsh

285

Other subjects

information and communications
technology (ICT); design &
technology; English; geography;
biology; general / integrated
science; music; religious
education; history; PE; art;
business studies; dance & drama;
and outdoor activities

550

Individual target totals listed above should be maintained.