

'Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers' (Furlong Report) Minister's response and implications

Background Appendix

- In 2005 the Welsh Government commissioned a review of ITT in Wales to advise on how it might more effectively meet the current and likely future needs of schools in Wales. The Review, led by Professor John Furlong, was published in January 2006. The overall conclusions of the report were that there needed to be a large reduction in ITT intakes to match more closely the numbers of newly-qualified teachers required in Wales. It also recommended that ITT provision should be reconfigured into three main regionally-based schools of education.
- Working with Welsh Government and ITT providers, HEFCW took forward the report's recommendations, with a budget of £12.4m. As a result three regional ITT centres were established, each comprising two higher education institutions but in a policy context of proposed reconfiguration and collaboration, and one provider (Glyndŵr University) withdrew from ITT provision. In all cases compensatory funding was provided for ITT numbers to be reduced and other education provision introduced, with accompanying capital funding support.
- In October 2012 Professor Ralph Tabberer was commissioned by Welsh Government (WG) to carry out a review of ITT in Wales. The final report was published in October 2013 along with a response from Welsh Government.¹
- Recommendation one of this report set out the need for a Senior Adviser to be appointed by WG with the specific responsibility for ITT and raising the standards of ITT. In March 2014 Professor John Furlong was appointed as the Senior Adviser.
- As part of his role Professor Furlong prepared a report for WG that sets out recommendations and options for the future of ITT. In preparing the report Professor Furlong has met with the Chief Executive and HEFCW officers over the last year to discuss the current position.
- In March 2015 the outcomes of the 'Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales'² carried out by Professor Donaldson on behalf of WG were published. The Furlong review outcomes interlink with those of the Donaldson review.

¹<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/wagreviews/review-of-initial-teacher-training-in-wales/?lang=en>

²<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150317-successful-futures-en.pdf>