

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Initial Teacher Training: Intake targets 2013/14

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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 gives the initial teacher training intake targets for the sector for 2013/14.

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Introduction

- 1 This circular gives the initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for the sector for 2013/14.
- 2 The letter which we have received from the Welsh Government setting out the targets is attached at **Annex A**.

Sector ITT intake targets 2013/14

- 3 The letter from the Welsh Government outlines the basis for the intake targets for 2013/14, which has included taking account of outputs from the Teacher Planning and Supply Model (TPSM) for Wales.
- 4 Sector primary and secondary undergraduate intake target numbers remain unchanged from 2012/13.
- 5 There was a decrease of 100 in PGCE secondary numbers in 2012/13, which reflected projected declines in secondary pupil numbers over the next few years. The Welsh Government indicated that it would consider a possible further reduction of another 50 intakes in 2013/14, subject to a further analysis of updated data. This reduction of 50 for 2013/14 has now been confirmed.
- 6 The Welsh Government's letter shows Secondary PGCE targets 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 2013/14. The Welsh Government will write to the sector separately about this. This should be made clear to prospective students.
- 8 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.
- 9 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.

- 10 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.
- 11 The Welsh Government is not able to offer indicative targets for future years at this time, as it will consider the position for 2014/15 on the basis of further analysis next year using updated figures.

Over-recruitment

- 12 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 revised penalty arrangements which we introduced last year in the light of the new tuition fees and funding regime with effect from the 2012/13 academic year onwards (Circular W12/01HE). These are set out in Annex B.

Open University in Wales intake targets

- 13 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

- 14 We will not be able to issue finalised ITT intake target allocations for the Centres of Teacher Education until early in the New Year when we will have verified recruitment data for 2012/13 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 2013 at the latest.
- 15 Given that sector **primary PGCE and undergraduate targets** are unchanged, Centres may assume that they will receive the same targets as for 2012/13 **provided that they have not breached the over-recruitment limits** for primary numbers in 2012/13 (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.
- 16 Intake targets for **secondary undergraduate** provision can be expected to be similar to 2012/13, provided that there has not been significant **under- or over-recruitment** in particular subjects which we may need to take into

account in distributing targets across subjects, **or a breach of penalty arrangements.**

- 17 We are concerned, however, that the Centres should have some earlier understanding of the way in which the further 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 50 intakes. We are also arranging to meet each of the Centres in November/early December. This will 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 2012/13 is received, particularly if there is under-recruitment against particular subject targets, **or if there has been a breach of the penalty arrangements**. 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.

Further information

- 18 For further information contact Alison Allan (tel 029 2068 2223; email alison.allan@hefcw.ac.uk) or Cliona O'Neill (tel 029 2068 2283; email cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk).

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Eich cyf • Your ref:

Ein cyf • Our ref:

Dear Dr Blaney

INTAKE TARGETS FOR INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING 2013/14

1. I am writing to let you know the intake targets for initial teacher training (ITT) for the 2013/14 academic year.

Background

2. We have steadily been reducing ITT intake numbers for some time now based on the outcome of analysis on the likely future demand for newly qualified teachers in maintained schools against the background of projected changes in pupil demographics over the next few years. Discussions have taken place between the Welsh Government and HEFCW officers recently to consider the implications for reducing secondary numbers further.

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 2011 calendar year figures and as last year we have run a median analysis to provide a better picture of the position in Wales;
- (b) the pupil projection figures have been updated with the results from the School Census 2012, based on the school population of Wales at January 2012 and covering the period between 2011/12 and 2021/22;

- (c) we have been working with colleagues internally 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 updated the model to record 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 (2011) median figures for applications for advertised primary teaching positions are 14 per post (English medium at 21 per post and Welsh medium at 6 per post). The median application numbers show a slight decrease from last year's figures.

5. The latest published projections for pupil numbers (based on the school population of Wales at January 2011) show primary pupil numbers rising by 37,000 between 2011/12 and 2021/22. 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 higher than projected at this point last year.

6. A baseline projection from the TPSM for the period 2012/13 – 2021/22 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 a significant reliance on large numbers of re-entrants to fill positions. Taking all the issues into account, our view is that for 2013/14 there seems to be no case for any reductions in the primary ITT numbers compared with 2012/13. The numbers seeking posts are not at the levels which the mean (simple averaging) figures would suggest, and the median numbers of applications show a slight decrease in numbers compared to last year. This along with projected rising pupil numbers should see an increase in the numbers of primary posts available.

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 2013/14, and will consider the position beyond that on the basis of a further data analysis next year using the next round of updated figures.

Detail – secondary

8. The latest (2011) median figures for application for advertised secondary teaching positions are 10 per post (English medium at 12 per post and Welsh medium at 4 per post). The rise in median application numbers overall and for English medium is slightly higher than last year while the median number of applications for Welsh medium remains the same.

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 14,400 overall between 2011/12 and 2016/17, but then returning to the current level (i.e. increase by 14,500) by 2021/22. These latest projections show secondary pupil numbers with a shallower and lesser fall than previously projected, and a significant rise from 2016/17 onwards to reach current levels by 2021/22.

10. A baseline projection from the TPSM for the period 2012/13 – 2021/22 using the various updated data outlined in paragraph 3 above shows that without any changes there would be no over supply of secondary ITT entrants with steady increases in the numbers of additional re-entrants required to 2019/20 tailing off slightly thereafter.

11. Our conclusion, taking all these issues into account, is that the 2013/14 secondary intake numbers need to be reduced by the projected further 50 places predicted in 2012/13. Based on the data analysis and updated figures available to us we think that a reduction of 50 places in 2013/14 is sufficient to ensure a higher number of re-entrants will be utilised from 2014/15 onwards. We will consider the position for 2014/15 on the basis of further analysis next year using updated figures. We are unable to offer indicative intake targets for future years at this time.

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 2013/14 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 but mirror the provision for the OU in 2012/13.

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. From 2012/13 the administration of the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP) under the employment-based teacher training programme is a matter for the ITT Centres. GTP numbers and the annual Policy Priorities Statement will be issued to the ITT Centres in early 2013.

Action

14. The primary and secondary intake targets for ITT for the 2013/14 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 will be available for those on courses in 2013/14; we will write separately about this once a decision has been made. 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 Centres 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. As in previous years the ITT Centres 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. The ITT Centres will need to be certain that they make the specialism and type of course clear to all trainees from the outset.

18. As mentioned in paragraph 11 above, we have not included here indicative targets for the following two academic years for general planning purposes. As indicated previously we will be undertaking a further analysis next year using the next round of updated figures, and the actual intake figures for 2014/15 may be different from the 2013/14 intake targets notified here.

19. Taking the intake targets for 2013/14 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 2012/13, and recruitment to those targets, course availability for 2013/14 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 ITT Centres accordingly.

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 the Schools Standards and Delivery Division as early as possible, but by no later than 31 January 2013, with proposals for allocating these numbers between ITT Centres for agreement by this office.

21. As indicated last year, in considering the allocation of secondary numbers, HEFCW should bear in mind the Minister's continued 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 to reflect the priority status. On the same basis, and as last year, HEFCW is asked where possible to protect English numbers to some degree to support literacy standards 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 avoid ITT Centres over-recruiting, at both primary and secondary levels.

Yours sincerely

GAIL DEANE
School Standards and Delivery Division

Annex

Intake targets 2013/14

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	total
Primary	300	450	750
Secondary	95	785	880
Total	395	1,235	1,630

Secondary PGCE subjects

Priority subjects

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

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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

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HEFCW may vire up to 5 targets from Secondary PGCE Priority Subjects to Other Subjects.

Revised controls on recruitment against intake targets from 2012/13

HEFCW will apply controls or take associated actions in relation to recruitment to ITT from the 2012/13 academic year onwards as set out below:

Primary ITT

- The penalties which were already in place for over-recruitment to primary provision at the Centres of Teacher Education will continue. These are:
 - If a Centre over-recruits by more than five per cent or five students (whichever is the greater) against its primary intake target in one year at either undergraduate or postgraduate level, a five per cent reduction will be applied to its intake target for that level for the following year. These intakes will not be returned to the Centre after the penalty year.
 - A penalty for more significant over-recruitment. Thus, if a Centre over-recruits by more than ten per cent in one year at either undergraduate or postgraduate level, its target for that level for the following year will be cut by ten per cent.

In determining whether this penalty will be applied, there will be no rounding. Immediately the over-recruitment is over ten per cent by any fraction, the penalty will be applied. For example: An institution has an intake target of 58. The calculation of ten per cent 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 ten per cent would not be accepted. The ten per cent over-recruitment threshold has been breached and therefore the penalty will be applied.

This penalty will be reduced to 5% in the year after, provided that the institution has not again over-recruited above the specified limits.

- **Additionally**, the number of students recruited over the five per cent threshold allowed against the institution's ITT primary intake target at either undergraduate or postgraduate level will be deducted from the institution's maximum student number for the following year. It will be possible to apply this penalty on an institutional basis to the partners in the South East Centre of Teacher Education, where each has either UG or PGCE primary provision, not both, and in the North and Mid Wales Centre, where all primary provision is located at Bangor University. Following the merger between University of Wales Trinity St David and Swansea Metropolitan University, any penalty for the South West Wales Centre will be applied to the merged institution.

Secondary ITT

- *UG Secondary* Where a provider over-recruits by more than five per cent against its UG Secondary intake target, the number of students recruited over this threshold will be deducted from the institution's maximum student number the following year. This can be done on an institutional basis as there is no overlap of subjects between partners in the Centres.
- *PGCE Secondary* Where a provider over-recruits by more than five per cent against its PGCE Secondary intake target, the number of students recruited over this threshold will be deducted from the institution's maximum student number the following year. In the North and Mid Wales Centre both partners offer Welsh, Chemistry, Physics and Biology; and both partners in the South East Wales Centre offer Design and Technology. In these instances, we would calculate what we considered an appropriate proportion from the numbers registered at each HEI and, if this did not concur with how the Centre saw the split of the targets between the partners, the Centre could propose to us that the reduction be applied to one institution only or in a different agreed proportion.
- For both UG and PGCE Secondary, we will monitor recruitment and if we have concerns about the level of under or over-recruitment to a particular subject within the provider's portfolio, we will discuss with the provider and require an action plan to address the situation.

We will look for a commitment to keep to the intake targets to be included in the Fee Plans of the ITT providers.