

Data and Research to Support Teacher Supply Planning

Minutes of meeting of the Working Group

11.00am, Wednesday 03 March 2021

Via WebEx

In attendance:

Chris Kelly, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply) (Chair)
Jason Kelly, Inspectorate
Deirdre Cullen, Statistics Section
Steven Lucas, Statistics Section
Rachel O'Brien, Central Policy Unit
Sarah Kearns, ITE & Professional Development
Michael Redmond, Post Primary Management Bodies
Jill Fannin, Forward Planning
Fiona Kindlon, ETBI
Karen Eastwood Lovett, Teaching Council

Also in attendance:

Conor McCourt, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)
Damien O'Neill, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)

Apologies:

Padraig Maloney, Payroll
Manuela Heinz, HEIs
Deirdre O'Donoghue, Primary Management Bodies
Maria Fitzgerald, Teaching Council
Louise Callinan, HEA
Deirdre Shanley, Asst. Secretary
Laura Watts, Central Policy Unit
Paul McCarthy, IT Payroll
Lewis Purser, IUA

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of the 24th November 2020 were agreed.

2. Revised Technical Report: update

The Group was updated on the Technical Report.

It was noted that the updated report is expected to be completed shortly and will take account of recent policy developments, up-to-date enrolment data and revised student projections.

The following points were agreed:

- The updated technical report would be circulated to the Data WG group members for final consideration before review at the next Teacher Supply Implementation Group meeting, scheduled for 25 March.
- Teacher Supply Secretariat will update the introduction to the Technical Report as required.
- Further consideration will be required regarding the frequency of publication of future versions of the report
- For future versions, consideration will be given to combining the Technical Report and the post primary subject teacher projection model.

Potential for the inclusion of projections of teacher demand / supply in special education settings

The Group considered the challenges of projecting teacher demand / supply in special education settings, including the various models of provision and the models of allocation of teachers to SEN posts.

It was agreed to explore further the potential for projecting teacher demand / supply in special education settings and Statistics Section will engage with Special Education Section to progress this issue.

3. Post primary subject teacher projection model

The Group considered the post primary subject teacher projection model, including projections of ITE programme graduates/new registrations

The following points were noted:

- A general rate of increase has been applied to most subjects in the model, based on a general increase in overall ITE enrolments.
- A small number of subjects (modern foreign languages, mathematics and Irish) were given an enhanced rate of projected increase, as new courses have started in these subjects.

The following points were agreed:

- Statistics Section will explore alternative methodologies, such as the use of historical enrolment data, to project the rate of graduate increase/decrease in a subject
- The Teaching Council will provide updated data on teacher registrations by subject.
- Teacher Supply Secretariat will draft an introduction to the updated report.

- Further consideration will be given to the potential for engagement with stakeholders prior to the publication of the subject teacher projection model.

Unmet demand

The Group considered the requirement for data on unmet demand in the demand and supply model and the appropriate time in the school year for the collection of such data.

The following points were agreed:

- Annual data on unmet demand is an important component of the demand/ supply model.
- Teacher Supply Secretariat will engage with Teacher Allocations Section with regard to conducting a suitable survey on unmet demand on an annual basis.

4. Data sharing with the HEA

The Group was updated on a new data sharing agreement being put in place between the Department and the HEA.

It was noted that the new agreement will provide for the sharing of Department data from PPOD with the HEA and HEA data from the SRS with the Department.

5. Use of the Teaching Council register to hold additional data to support teacher supply planning

The following points were noted:

- The Teaching Council has been requested by the Department to amend the registration process such that a record of the teacher's employing school is made mandatory on first registration and updated annually by the teacher on renewal of registration, as well as to allow for the recording of multiple employments.
- Work is ongoing to upgrade the Teaching Council's registration database and it is anticipated that the 2021 NQT data will be recorded on the new system.

It was agreed that the Teacher Supply Secretariat would follow up with the Teaching Council in regard to this request.

6. Update on spending reviews

The Group was updated by Central Policy Unit on the spending review paper on forecasting teacher allocations.

It was noted that, depending on progress, the paper is likely to be published in either June or October 2021.

7. Teacher Supply Action Plan: data actions

The Group considered possible amendments to the data actions in the draft Teacher Supply Action Plan, including the potential for regional analysis, access to data from the IPPN recruitment portal on the demand for teachers and data relating to teachers in ETB post primary schools.

It was agreed that Teacher Supply Secretariat will redraft the actions to reflect the discussion and circulate to the Group for its consideration.

8. AOB

None

9. Date of next meeting

14th April 2021.

Teacher Supply Secretariat
March 2021