

Data and Research to Support Teacher Supply Planning

Minutes of meeting of the Working Group

11.00am, Wednesday 16th June 2021

Via WebEx

In attendance:

Deirdre Shanley, Asst. Secretary (Chair)
Chris Kelly, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)
Deirdre Cullen, Statistics Section
Steven Lucas, Statistics Section
Laura Watts, Central Policy Unit
Manuela Heinz, HEIs
Karen Eastwood Lovett, Teaching Council

Also in attendance:

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

Apologies:

Deirdre O'Donoghue, Primary Management Bodies
Michael Redmond, Post Primary Management Bodies
Maria Fitzgerald, Teaching Council
Louise Callinan, HEA
Paul McCarthy, IT Payroll
Lewis Purser, IUA
Jason Kelly, Inspectorate
Rachel O'Brien, Central Policy Unit
Jill Fannin, Forward Planning
Fiona Kindlon, ETBI
Sinéad Middleton, Teacher Education Policy (ITE & Professional Development)

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of the 3rd March 2021 were agreed.

2. Technical Report: reflection on national consultative forum

The following points were noted:

- The National Consultative Forum on Teacher Supply took place online on 27th May 2021.
- The event was very well organised and there was positive feedback from forum participants.

- Thanks was extended to those who organised and participated in the event.

3. Post primary subject teacher projection model: next steps

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

It was noted that there were problems around the response rates from schools for collection of the 2020 DTR data, most likely due to Covid-19 and therefore analysis to update the subject level model should await the 2021 collection of the DTR data.

The following points were agreed:

- The subject teacher projections report will be published as a standalone report, separate to the already published Technical Report.
- TSS to engage with the Inspectorate to raise awareness and emphasise to schools the importance of returning DTR data.
- Data WG to review the subject teacher projection proposals and provide feedback to Statistics Section.

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 subject level demand / supply model.
- Teacher Supply Secretariat to engage with Teacher Allocations Section and Statistics with regard to conducting a survey on unmet demand early in the new school year.
- Review 2019/2020 survey questions to ensure they are still relevant
- Circulate revised draft survey to the Data group for review and feedback.

4. Potential for further regional analysis of demand and supply

The Group was updated on the difficulties in projecting regional analysis, particularly in relation to supply.

It was noted that the portal for long-term vacancies will, when developed, show demand at school level within the system.

The following points were agreed:

- Statistics Section to explore projecting demand at regional level at both primary and post-primary level.
- Statistics Section to consider the use of enrolment data that was used recently for school planning.

- Statistics Section to circulate the challenges around the projection of regional supply /demand to the Group.
- Statistics Section to circulate School Planning Area report to the Group for their information.

5. Potential for 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 noted that the projection of teacher demand / supply in special education settings is particularly difficult. Further consideration may have to be given but it was agreed that such projections are likely to be outside the remit of the Group.

Irish medium schools

It was agreed that Statistics Section would explore the possibility of projecting demand in Irish medium schools. It was noted that it would not be possible to project supply particularly at primary. At post-primary it would still be difficult apart from programmes aimed at the sector.

6. Potential for data on diversity amongst student teachers and the teaching workforce, including in regard to gender.

The group considered the issues around the collection of data in relation to diversity including data protection, disclosure etc.

It was noted that there is ongoing discussion at Government level on how best to capture this kind of data and measure diversity in the overall public sector.

The following points were agreed:

- This item will remain on the agenda going forward but the Group will await the outcome of the discussions outlined above before progressing further.
- Recent papers from NUIG on diversity study to be circulated to the Group.
- Statistics Section to circulate papers on ethnicity to the Group.

7. Data sharing with the HEA (update)

No further updates on the data sharing agreement were given to the Group. Stats agreed to update group after the meeting.

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

The following points were noted:

- Work is ongoing to upgrade the Teaching Council's registration database with some delays being experienced. As a result, it was noted that the 2021 NQT data will not be recorded on the new system.
- 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.

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

9. Update on spending reviews

The Group was updated by Central Policy Unit on the spending review paper on teacher allocation and substitution forecasting. It was noted that these papers are likely to be published in July.

It was further noted that there is a delay with the publication of the paper on retirement forecasting.

10. Teacher Supply Action Plan

The following points were noted:

- The actions in relation to Data WG are now agreed.
- Some other actions in the plan have been revised to be consistent with relevant actions in "Building Momentum".
- The revised Action Plan will be submitted to the Minister for her consideration in the coming weeks.

11. AOB

None

12. Date of next meeting

4th August 2021.

June 2021