

Data and Research to Support Teacher Supply Planning

Minutes of meeting of the Working Group

11.00am, Wednesday 6th October 2021

Via WebEx

In attendance:

Chris Kelly, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply) (Chair)
Deirdre Cullen, Statistics Section
Steven Lucas, Statistics Section
Laura Watts, Central Policy Unit
Jason Kelly, Inspectorate
Jill Fannin, Forward Planning
Terry Reynolds, Payroll Division (for Sinéad Keenaghan)
Sinéad Middleton, Teacher Education Policy (ITE & Professional Development)
Maria Fitzgerald, Teaching Council
Fiona Kindlon, ETBI
Deirdre O'Donoghue, Primary Management Bodies
Michael Redmond, Post-primary Management Bodies

Also in attendance:

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

Apologies:

Deirdre Shanley, Asst. Secretary
Paul McCarthy, IT Payroll
Lewis Purser, IUA
Rachel O'Brien, Central Policy Unit
Sinéad Keenaghan, Payroll Division
Manuela Heinz, HEIs
Karen Eastwood Lovett, Teaching Council

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of the 16th June 2021 were agreed.

2. Post primary subject teacher projection model

- Survey of unmet demand
The following points were noted:
 - The survey issued on Monday 4th October to all post-primary schools.
 - 91 schools have completed the survey so far.

Management bodies reported difficulties filling Career Guidance posts in schools. It was agreed to include a reminder to schools to include Career Guidance as part of the survey returns.

The school management bodies were thanked for their cooperation with the survey.

- **DTR Returns**

The following points were noted:

- The deadline for schools to make their 2021 / 2022 DTR returns was the week ending 1st October, 2021.
- 65% of schools have made a return and the Department will follow up on outstanding returns in the coming weeks.
- 2021 / 2022 DTR returns will be used for next update of the Technical Report.

The management body representatives agreed to encourage their members to submit their DTR returns, if they had not already done so.

3. Potential for further regional analysis of demand and supply

The following points were noted:

- The national demographic projections for school enrolments are complete and are currently being reviewed by the Management Board. The projections are expected to be published in Q4 2021.
- The projections have also been completed at regional level.
- The projections show that fertility is falling faster than previously expected with migration projections expected to remain as previously projected.
- These revised projections will result in lower than expected school enrolments in the years ahead.
- The projections are expected to be incorporated into the subject teacher model in due course.

The following points were agreed:

- Statistics Section to liaise with the HEA to explore the use of their geocode data to assist in the projection of teacher supply.
- Statistics Section to give priority to the subject teacher projection model.

4. Potential for projections of teacher demand/ supply in Irish medium schools

It was noted that the Gaeltacht Unit recently commenced a new policy initiative to develop a strategy for the Irish-medium education outside of Gaeltacht. An intradepartmental working group has been established, to develop this policy, with membership drawn from across the Department, including Teacher Supply.

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

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

It was further noted that the issue of diversity is also being reviewed in the context of the National Access Plan and the new ITE Policy Statement.

It was agreed that the item will remain on the agenda going forward but the Group will await the outcome of the discussions outlined above before progressing further.

6. Data sharing with the HEA (update)

It was noted that this is being progressed and a Data Protection Impact Assessment was completed recently.

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

The following points were noted:

- The Teaching Council's new registration database will launch to the public in the coming week after which the old database will no longer be available.
- Teachers will be asked to verify their employment details when renewing their registration.
- There are currently 111,519 teachers registered on the database, 3,671 of these are NQTs who registered in 2021.

8. 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 were published over the summer months.

It was agreed to circulate a link to the papers to the Group members.

9. 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.

Following a request from the Management Bodies, the Teacher Supply Secretariat will explore the possibility of circulating a draft version of the Action Plan to stakeholders in advance of its official publication.

10. AOB

None

11. Date of next meeting

24th November 2021.

**Teacher Supply Secretariat
October 2021**