

## Notes to Editor



### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS

#### Main Features of the 2017 Estimates

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS GROSS ALLOCATION 2017	
	€m
Exchequer allocation for gross current expenditure	8,840
Exchequer allocation for gross capital expenditure	690
Allocation for National Training Fund	362
<b>Total overall allocation</b>	<b>9,530</b>

The gross 2017 budget allocation for the Department of Education and Skills is €9.53 billion euro, an increase of 5.1% (€458 million) on the 2016 allocation.

The budget provides for 2,400 additional teaching posts by the end of 2017. This includes 680 posts to meet rising demographic needs, 100 posts arising from enhancements to guidance, 900 additional resource teachers, 550 additional posts arising from Junior Cycle professional time and 170 posts arising from enhancements to school leadership. The Estimates also provide for an additional 115 Special Needs Assistant posts from January 2017.

The 2016 allocation includes €130 million to meet the costs of the **Lansdowne Road Agreement** in the education sector. An allocation of €52 million will provide for **carryover of certain Budget 2016 measures**, namely changes the staffing schedule and the costs of 600 additional resource teachers appointed in September 2016.

€10 million has been provided to implement the agreement reached with INTO and the TUI to develop, subject to the introduction of certain reform measures, a new incremental salary scale designed to address the current difference in pay for **new entrant teachers** (those recruited since 1 February 2012).

## SCHOOLS

TEACHING POSTS IN PRIMARY AND POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS - 2017			
	PRIMARY (POSTS)	SECOND LEVEL (POSTS)	TOTAL POSTS
Projected numbers for end 2015	35,850	30,269	66,119
Demographics	+390	+290	+680
Guidance enhancement	-	+100	+100
Junior Cycle Professional Hours	-	+550	+550
Supports for school leadership	-	+170	+170
Estimated additional resource teacher posts	+580	+320	+900
<b>Projected total number at end 2017</b>	<b>36,820</b>	<b>31,699</b>	<b>68,519</b>

€51 million is allocated to provide for **demographic growth** in the school sector, which will provide for the appointment of around 680 new classroom teachers and capitation costs for an estimated 11,000 additional students.

Implementation of **Junior Cycle reform** will be supported with the introduction of 22 hours' professional time for teachers involved in delivering the Junior Cycle. To ensure class contact time is not reduced, this will involve a 0.5 PTR adjustment in post-primary schools, and the allocation of some 550 whole-time equivalent posts.

€8 million additional funding from within the Department's budget will be provided for ongoing **curricular reform**, in areas including primary language, Walk Tall/Stay Safe, Leaving Certificate programmes including Economics, Politics & Society, Agriculture, Physical Education and induction programmes/Droichead.

An additional €2 million will be allocated to strengthen **guidance counselling provision**. From September 2017 there will be a separate allocation for guidance outside of the quota and the main staffing schedule will revert to 19 to 1.

An additional provision of up to €5 million will be made in 2017 to implement the new **Action Plan for Educational Inclusion**, which will be published before the end of 2016.

An additional €7.75 million will be provided to strengthen **school leadership**. Additional deputy principal posts will be provided for in schools with enrolments of 700 students and over, totalling 170 posts. Measures to commence the restoration of middle management posts will be introduced in the primary and post-primary sectors in September 2017. The aim is to contribute to the further development of a distributed leadership model in schools, involving the establishment and facilitation of leadership teams with appropriately defined and shared responsibilities for areas such as curriculum and learning, student support and wellbeing, school improvement and leadership and development of staff teams.

Following a review of the staffing allocation for **Small Primary Schools** there will be two adjustments in relation to one teacher schools. Where the school is the sole primary school on an island the school will be able to appoint a second teacher. In relation to single teacher schools generally with an enrolment of 15 or more pupils the school can apply to the staffing appeal board for a second post where the single teacher has children across 6 or more class groups. The detailed arrangements will be set out in the staffing schedule circular for the 2017/18 school year.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Following development and piloting over the past number of years, a new model for allocation of **teaching resources for children with special educational needs** will be implemented from September 2017. An additional €18 million will be provided in 2017 to provide for around 900 resource teacher posts. Further details regarding implementation of the new model will be announced in the coming months.

Funding is being allocated to provide for the recruitment of 115 additional **Special Needs Assistants** from January 2017 and to provide for the full year costs of 860 Special Needs Assistants recruited from September 2016.

## HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION & TRAINING

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In 2017, an additional €36.5 million will be allocated to **higher education**, allowing the provision of over 179,000 full-time enrolments. This will encompass:

- €4 million to reinstate maintenance grants from September 2017 for the most **disadvantaged postgraduate students**.

- €31 million to provide for increased demand, further development of technological universities, research and targeted funding for initiatives in the areas of skills, apprenticeships, educational inclusion and flexible learning.
- €1.5 million will be provided to implement *Irish Educated – Globally Connected*, the new **International Education Strategy**.

€10 million will be allocated to facilitate re-designation of additional hours required under the Croke Park Agreement in the Institute of Technology sector to wider duties other than teaching in line with the agreement reached with the TUI.

Funding will be allocated from within the National Training Fund to provide for forecast increased demand for **traditional apprenticeships and rollout of apprenticeships in new sectors**. This will be facilitated through reduced NTF expenditure on training for the unemployed in line with reductions in unemployment.

As part of the Budget, the Minister for Education and Skills and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform are announcing a policy review with the aim of designing and implementing a **sustainable and predictable multi-annual funding model for higher and further education and training** involving increased Employer and Exchequer contributions from 2018. This review will be undertaken as part of the overall response to meeting the anticipated skills needs in the economy over the coming years, in line with the policy framework set out in the National Skills Strategy.

This review will include (i) analysis of the business case for enhanced investment in the higher and further education and training sectors in this context (ii) identification of key elements of the new funding model (iii) identification of expected impacts including on employers. The review will include consultation with stakeholders.

The policy review will be published by the end of April 2017, and will complement the ongoing work by the Oireachtas Committee considering *Investing in National Ambition – A Strategy for Funding Higher Education* (the Cassells report).

## CAPITAL

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The capital allocation for 2017 will be €690 million.

The focus in the school sector continues to be the provision of additional permanent places to meet the demographic need at both primary and post-primary levels. The allocation will support the creation of up to an additional 20,000 permanent school places in 2017 through

the delivery of Large Scale Projects and the Additional Accommodation Scheme. It is expected that up to 50 large scale projects will reach substantial completion in 2017.

Other expenditure items in 2017 will include acquiring sites for school buildings, the emergency works scheme, funding furniture and equipment requests and other smaller commitments.

Having progressed almost 200 school projects under the Summer Works Scheme in 2016, it will now be possible to advance further school projects under the scheme. Further details will be announced in early 2017. This funding will allow schools to carry out works that will improve and upgrade existing school buildings during the summer months or at other times that avoid disrupting the operation of schools.

The allocation for the school sector will facilitate the commencement of an investment programme to upgrade ICT infrastructure in all schools. This is the commencement of the €210m digital technology investment in schools to be delivered by 2021 as indicated in the Building on Recovery: Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016-2021 launched in September 2015.

Most of the PPP allocation is in respect of Unitary Charges associated with the pilot Bundle and Bundles 1 to 4 in the school sector comprising a total of 27 schools and a VAT payment on the completion of the Bundle 5 Schools in 2017 as well as the Unitary Charges in respect of the Cork School of Music and National Maritime College.

The allocation in the Higher Education sector supports research activities by providing post-graduate and post-doctoral funding. In addition the allocation will include support for the completion of enabling works for the PPP project in Grangegorman, the Glucksman Library project at the University of Limerick and the Confucius Institute project at University College Dublin.



**11 OCTOBER 2016**

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