

Meeting of the Teacher Supply Implementation Group

09 March 2023 @ 2.00 pm

Via WebEx

Minutes

In attendance:

Bernie McNally, Secretary General (Chair)
Dalton Tattan, Assistant Secretary General
Tomás Ó Ruairc, Assistant Secretary General
Deirdre Shanley, Assistant Secretary General
Aoife Conduit, Assistant Secretary General
Yvonne Keating, Chief Inspector
Paraic Joyce, PO, School Governance/ Teacher Allocations
Jill Fannin, PO, Teacher Education Policy (ITE and Professional Development)
Mark Bohan, PO, External Staff Relations
Phil Fox, Deputy Director, Teaching Council
Sinéad Keenaghan, PO, Payroll
Séamus Keating, PO, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)
James Walsh, PO, Teacher/SNA Terms & Conditions
Paul McClearn, HEO, Pensions
Clíodhna O'Neill, PO, Communications Section
Deirdre Cullen, PO, Statistics
Pat McCarthy, PO, Teacher Education Policy (Teaching Council)

Also in attendance:

John Egan, HEO, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)
Damien O'Neill, APO, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)

Apologies:

Caroline Galvin, APO, Pensions
Lynn Ramsey, Director, Teaching Council
Deirdre Naughton, PO, Payroll
Martin McLoughlin, PO, Special Education

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 02 February 2023 were agreed.

2. Updated Draft Teacher Supply Action Plan

The Secretary General thanked the Group for their work to date regarding the Plan and also emphasised the need for further progress over the coming months. It was agreed that the Plan would be reviewed by this Group regularly and that new actions were welcome.

3. Production of data dashboard

It was noted that while progress is being made on collating the Department's payroll data some work remains with regards the ETB in terms of clarification on data sharing.

4. Communications and promotion of the teaching profession

Retired Teachers

Work on identifying the motivations / obstacles for retired teachers returning to the classroom has begun. The Group was informed that Communications Section will engage with a company specialising in such research programmes. It is also intended to liaise with the Retired Teacher Association of Ireland (RTAI) to identify retired teachers who may be willing to engage with the research.

Communications Campaign

The Group was informed by Communications Section that they are willing to assist any section where necessary.

The Group was also informed that there will be a stakeholder engagement workshop re supply and demand/deployment of substitute teachers on Thursday, 23 March in Athlone. Both primary and post primary sectors will be discussed and invites to relevant stakeholders have issued.

5. Inspectorate teacher supply surveys

The Group was informed of details on the inspectorate teacher supply surveys for both primary and post primary for February 2023. The following issues were noted from the surveys:

Primary

- Issues with supply panels
- The cost of living, especially in Dublin
- The impact of SETs covering mainstream classes
- Difficulties for Irish medium schools in recruiting Irish qualified substitution teachers

Post Primary

- Issues with shortages of teachers of home economics, Irish and maths
- Teacher absence rates in DEIS schools are higher than other areas
- Sick leave and maternity leave are the most common leave categories

6. Department response to the Ukrainian crisis

The following points were noted:

- The number of Ukrainian pupil enrolled is now just over 15,000
- It was agreed that work is required on projecting the future enrolments of Ukrainian pupils is needed and the likely impact of this on EAL allocations and the mainstream sector.

- More than 950 EAL posts have been allocated and this is expected to increase. Work is being progressed on EAL allocations for September.

7. AOB

None.

8. Date of next meeting

18 May 2023 @ 2pm

Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)
May 2023