

Data and Research to Support Teacher Supply Planning

Minutes of meeting of the Working Group

11.30am, Thursday 08 June 2023

Via Teams

In attendance:

Tomás Ó Ruairc, Department of Education (Chair)
Séamus Keating, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)
Paul Alexander, Statistics Section
Olwyn Byrne, Statistics Section
Karen Eastwood Lovett, Teaching Council
Siobhan Healy, Teaching Council
Fiona Kindlon, ETBI
Sinéad Keenaghan, Payroll Division
Alison O'Neill, Primary Management Bodies (for Jennifer Buttner)
Fergus Quinn, Special Education
Sinéad Middleton, Teacher Education (ITE)
Michael Redmond, Post-Primary Management Bodies
Micheál Lenihan, ESBS
Jason Kelly, Inspectorate

Also in attendance:

Conor McCourt, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)
Tom Slevin, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)

Apologies:

Jennifer Buttner, Primary Management Bodies
Murty Hanly, Forward Planning
Manuela Heinz, HEIs

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 27 April 2023 were agreed.

2. Post primary subject teacher projection report/ model

The following points were noted:

- The post primary subject teacher report is being reviewed to take account of this feedback and further data gathering is also planned.
- The Department intends to publish the report when these steps have been taken and it is satisfied that the report projects subject teacher demand and supply as accurately as possible.

3. Planned research on the Teaching Council register

The Group was updated on the "signs of life" analysis of the Teaching Council register being undertaken by the CSO, which will involve the matching of data from the Council's register with data from Revenue, Department of Social Welfare and the census.

4. Review of Sectoral workshops

The Group considered the Mentimeter feedback from the primary and post primary data workshops.

The important contribution of the NQTs who participated in the workshops was noted.

5. Teacher demand and supply in IME schools

The following points were noted:

- The Gaeltacht Unit are currently meeting with stakeholders as part of a consultation process to inform the development of a Policy on IM education outside of the Gaeltacht.
- A meeting has been arranged of the Gaeltacht Unit, Statistics Section and Teacher Supply in early July to progress the analysis of teacher demand and supply in IME schools.

6. Short to medium term data planning

Development of a teacher supply data dashboard

The following points were noted:

- A teacher supply data dashboard is being developed to include headline data relevant to teacher supply.
- It is intended that the dashboard will be updated on a regular basis.

SET demand and supply

The following points were noted:

- A model to project the demand and supply of teachers in special education settings is being developed
- The model will allow for policy changes affecting the demand for teachers in such settings.
- Statistics Section and Special Education Section will meet shortly to progress the development of the model.

7. ETB teacher data: update

It was noted that engagement between Statistics Section and ESBS is ongoing with the aim of putting in place a data sharing agreement to allow anonymised data on ETB teachers to be used in teacher demand and supply modelling.

8. Data on substitute teacher demand and supply

The following points were noted:

- An analysis of substitute teacher supply and demand in the 2022/23 school year undertaken by Statistics Section indicated that 32% of primary and 37% of post primary substitutable vacancies were not filled.
- 35% of primary teachers and 40% of post primary teachers provided substitute cover for less than 10 days in the 2022/23 school year.
- An online survey of substitute teachers is planned to help the Department understand patterns of working of substitute teachers in the primary and post-primary sectors.

The Group considered how best to analyse the data from the survey of substitute teachers, including the timing of substitute teacher demand in the school year.

9. Data from the Teaching Council register to support teacher supply planning

The following points were noted:

- The registration process for NQTs for 2023 is commencing shortly.
- Over 3,000 student teachers are registered under Route 5 (Student Teachers), 1650 of whom are final year students.
- The registration process for the 2023/24 3rd year student cohort will commence later in the year.
- It is estimated that approximately 1,000 eligible student teachers did not register under Route 5 in 2022/23.

10. Ukraine crisis and teacher supply

The following points were noted:

- Significant numbers of additional EAL and SET posts have been allocated to schools in respect of Ukrainian students.
- Post primary schools can draw from panels of ESOL tutors as a source of English language support, but to date only a small number of schools have done so.

The Group considered the potential factors affecting the low uptake of ESOL tutors but concluded that it reflected a low demand from schools for tutors in these roles.

11. Date of next meeting

7th September 2023