

Data and Research to Support Teacher Supply Planning
Minutes of meeting of the Working Group
2.30pm, Thursday 18 January 2024
Via Teams

In attendance:

Tomás Ó Ruairc, Department of Education, Chair
Paul Alexander, Statistics Section
Olwyn Byrne, Statistics Section
Séamus Keating, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)
Karen Eastwood Lovett, Teaching Council
Siobhan Healy, Teaching Council
Fiona Kindlon, ETBI
Sinéad Keenaghan, Payroll Division
Sinéad Middleton, Teacher Education (ITE)
Micheál Lenihan, ESBS
Laura Walsh, Inspectorate
Murty Hanly, Forward Planning
Jennifer Buttner, Primary Management Bodies
Fergus Quinn, Special Education
Manuela Heinz, University of Galway

Also in attendance:

John Egan, Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)

Apologies:

Michael Redmond, Post-Primary Management Bodies
Michael Donoghue, Payroll Division

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 30 November 2024 were agreed with no matters arising.

2. Research on the Teaching Council register

Initial analysis on the Teaching Council's Register of teachers is completed. A document of findings and proposals for next steps is currently being drafted. This work involved the matching of data from the Council's register with data from a number of sources including Revenue, Department of Social Protection and the census. Statistics Unit plan to carry out further analysis on the 4,670 teachers registered but showing no activity within the State.

The data gathered was seen as a really important piece of work and was positively received at the Teacher Supply Consultative Forum in December.

3. Short to medium term data planning updates

Teacher supply data project

The following points were noted:

- The data collected from the Department's Teacher Payroll and ESBS Teacher Payroll in June and September was also presented at the Teacher Supply Consultative Forum in December
- The Group welcomed the data and it was agreed that the data so far has revealed some interesting insights.
- Statistics Unit is currently working on November data and plans to work on March data.
- It was agreed that a time series of this data needs to be implemented with 2023 data as a starting point.
- A communications plan for the publicising of this data will be prepared by the Department.

4. Post primary unmet demand

The following points were noted:

- The survey is very close to being launched.
- Statistics Unit will contact management bodies next week to promote this within their organisations. Following this there will then be direct contact with post-primary schools.

5. Data on substitute teacher demand and supply

Online survey of substitute teachers

The following points were noted:

- An online survey to help the Department understand patterns of working of substitute teachers has now closed with the requisite response target achieved.
- An analysis of the survey will now take place with a report due in Q2 2024.

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

Currently 122,138 teachers in total are registered with the Teaching Council

NQT registrations

- Approximately 3,900 NQTs registered in 2023.
- 124 NQTs did not engage with the registration process, which is only 3%.

Route 5 (student teacher) registrations

- Total registered – 3,361
- Statistics for the number to student teachers registered in October 2023:
 - 2,163 student teachers received invitations for registration.
 - 1,635 applications received.
 - 1,456 registrations completed.
 - 179 in progress

The Teaching Council agreed to provide a time series on the NQT application rate and some analysis on the 430 teachers who returned to teach in Ireland from overseas.

7. Ukraine crisis and teacher supply

The following points were noted:

- Almost 18,000 Ukrainian pupils have been enrolled in schools across Ireland to date.
- It was noted that the number of arrivals from Ukraine is dropping.

8. AOB

- It was noted that there are many requests for data on the teaching workforce and that a process of considering requests, and determining if the data requested is required, should be considered. This is to ensure that Statistics Unit is not inundated with requests.
- Teacher Supply section informed the Group that the Department recently secured funding under the EU Technical Support Instrument (TSI) for work on a “Strategic Workforce Planning for Teachers”. It will largely be a consultative piece of work and more details will be available in the coming weeks. The Group welcomed this development.
- A renewed communications campaign encouraging retired teachers to take up substitute teaching will be implemented in coming months.

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 29 February

Teacher Supply Secretariat

January 2024