

Data and Research to Support Teacher Supply Planning

Meeting of the Working Group

2.30pm, Tuesday 3rd March 2020

MB Room, DES, Marlborough St, Dublin and Conf. Room 1, DES, Athlone (video link)

In attendance:

Deirdre Shanley, DES Asst. Secretary (Chair)
Chris Kelly, DES Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply)
Deirdre Cullen, DES Statistics Section
Louise Callinan, HEA
Maria Fitzgerald, Teaching Council
Jason Kelly, DES Inspectorate
Laura Watts, Central Policy Unit
Rachel O'Brien, Central Policy Unit
Sarah Kearns, DES ITE & Professional Development (for Sinead Middleton)

Also in attendance:

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

Apologies:

Ruth Carmody, DES Asst. Secretary
Paul McCarthy, DES IT Payroll
Lewis Purser, IUA
Deirdre O'Donoghue, Primary Management Bodies
Michael Redmond, Post Primary Management Bodies
Jill Fannin, Forward Planning
Karen Eastwood Lovett, Teaching Council
Dorota Migocka Sendlak, HEA
Merrilyn Goos, HEIs
Shelagh Graham, ETBI
Manuela Heinz, HEIs
Sinead Middleton, DES ITE & Professional Development
Padraig Maloney, DES Payroll
Steven Lucas, DES Statistics Section

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of the 28th January 2020 were agreed with a minor amendment.

2. Technical Report

Feedback from data workshop:

The Group was updated on the general feedback received from the data workshop, held on the 30th January

It was agreed that a summary of the feedback would issue to members of the group.

Revised Technical Report: update

The Group considered the content of the updated technical report, including the approach to teachers who die in service, secondments, career breaks and policy levers, as well as arrangements for the report's publication.

The following points were noted:

- The projections in the report are on a no policy change basis (no change to PTR) but that policy proposals, if required, can be tested using the model at a future date.
- Uncertified sick leave will not be included in tables 17 and 39 (primary/ post primary covered and uncovered leave by leave type) as it is substitutable only in limited circumstances at primary level and not substitutable at post primary level.
- The report will be amended to allow for teachers on career break who do not return to teach and projections of teacher supply will be adjusted accordingly.

The following points were agreed:

- To use the projected PTR (12.7:1) in table 26 (Change in post primary pupils and teaching posts).
- Separate from the report, further analysis on career break data will be carried out including on age profile of those not returning to teacher after a career break.
- The finalised Technical Report will be circulated to Group members before publication.

The Group also considered options for the updating and publication of key elements of the report in future years

Analysis of subject specific post primary teacher demand (DTR data): next steps

The Group considered possible approaches to the determination of subject teacher demand at post primary level.

It was agreed that a small focus group, to include the Department and relevant post primary stakeholders, might be convened to further explore subject level projections.

3. Proposed survey of demand for post primary subject specific teachers (February/ March 2020)

It was noted that post primary principals and ETB directors of schools are currently being surveyed on teacher shortages in specific subject areas.

4. HEA longitudinal study of the outcomes for graduates from ITE programmes

It was noted that the longitudinal study is currently being progressed by the CSO and that it is intended that it will be completed in Q3 2020.

5. Potential use of the Teaching Council register to hold additional data to support teacher supply planning.

The Group considered the challenges in using the Teaching Council's Registration Database to provide data to support teacher supply planning, including the requirement for data "cleaning", the absence / unreliability of data on employment status and the potential requirement for legislative change.

The following points were noted:

- Comprehensive data on subject qualifications would be particularly useful
- The Teaching Council is in the process of upgrading the database (target Q1 2021 for completion)

6. AOB

Central Policy Unit spending review papers

It was noted that Central Policy Unit is currently drafting spending review papers in the following areas:

- Analysis of substitution trends
- Retirement & lump-sum projections
- Teacher Allocations: two papers, one on process and one on forecasting (both jointly with D/Per)

It was agreed that Central Policy Unit will keep the Group updated on progress in this area..

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7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 29th April at 2.30pm

Teacher Supply Secretariat
March 2020