

Data and Research to Support Teacher Supply Planning

Meeting of the Working Group

2.30pm, Thursday 11th June 2020

Via WebEx

In attendance:

Chris Kelly, DES Teacher Education Policy (Teacher Supply) (Chair)
Deirdre Cullen, DES Statistics Section
Steven Lucas, DES Statistics Section
Jason Kelly, DES Inspectorate
Laura Watts, Central Policy Unit
Rachel O'Brien, Central Policy Unit
Louise Callinan, HEA
Maria Fitzgerald, Teaching Council
Karen Eastwood Lovett, Teaching Council
Manuela Heinz, HEIs
Sarah Kearns, DES ITE & Professional Development
Michael Redmond, Post Primary Management Bodies

Also in attendance:

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

Apologies:

Deirdre Shanley, DES Asst. Secretary
Paul McCarthy, DES IT Payroll
Lewis Purser, IUA
Deirdre O'Donoghue, Primary Management Bodies
Jill Fannin, Forward Planning
Dorota Migocka Sendlak, HEA
Merrilyn Goos, HEIs
Shelagh Graham, ETBI
Padraig Maloney, DES Payroll

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of the 3rd March 2020 were agreed.

2. Revised Technical Report: update

The following points were noted:

- The report has been updated with the feedback from the data workshop and following further analysis by Statistics Section.
- It is expected that the updated report will be published in the coming weeks.
- Stakeholders will be notified when the updated report is published.

3. Survey of unmet demand for post primary subject specific teachers.

The Group was updated on the results of the survey of unmet demand.

The following points were noted:

- Approximately 280 school principals and ETB directors of schools were surveyed.
- Analysis shows that Irish, home economics, mathematics and French are the subjects in which schools have most the difficulty in recruiting.

It was agreed that further analysis of the data is needed.

4. Proposed changes to post primary subject teacher projection model

The Group considered the proposals from Statistics Section for developing subject teacher projections, including the assumptions in the proposed approach and incorporating “out of field” teachers in the model.

The following points were agreed:

- The survey responses were representative of the post primary system and grossing from the data obtained to determine the unmet demand in full system was valid (Table 3 of the note).
- The data will be analysed further on a geographical basis.
- The Group would provide any further observations on the paper to Statistics Section.

5. Data Workshop: mentimeter feedback

The Group considered Mentimeter feedback from the workshop on the Technical Report, held on 30 January 2020.

The following points were agreed:

- The feedback would be useful to inform future engagements with stakeholders.
- The Group would review the feedback and forward any observations to Teacher Supply Secretariat.

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

The Group considered the potential for Teaching Council's Registration Database to provide data to support teacher supply planning.

The following points were noted:

- Consideration would need to be given to the reliability of the data currently held on the database.
- The specification for the upgrade of the registration database has been completed and phase 2 of the development is underway.
- Legislation would be needed to allow the Teaching Council to capture additional data.

It was agreed that the Teaching Council will engage further with the Department to progress this issue.

7. Central Policy Unit: update on spending reviews

The Group was updated by Central Policy Unit on the spending review papers that are currently being drafted 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)

The following points were noted:

- The aim of the teacher allocation papers is to provide for an accurate school level forecast of demand with the aim of addressing budgetary pressures.
- The target for the allocation papers to be completed is July 2020 and the remaining papers later in the year.
- A reference to the Spending Review papers has been included in the introduction to the updated Technical Report.

8. AOB

N/A

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 9th July at 2.30pm.

June 2020