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Dr John Kemp  
Chief Executive  
Scottish Funding Council  
Apex 2  
97 Haymarket Terrace  
EDINBURGH  
EH12 5HD

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Dear John

## **TEACHER WORKFORCE PLANNING: INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION (ITE)**

1. This letter contains Scottish Government Ministers' guidance to the Scottish Funding Council on ITE in academic session 2018/19. Having considered all the factors involved and the advice of the Teacher Workforce Planning Advisory Group (TWPAG) the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills is recommending an increase in the overall number of student teacher places from 4,058 in 2017/18 to 4,100 in 2018/19.

### **ITE intakes for 2018/19**

2. Analytical Services colleagues undertake an annual modelling exercise which provides advice to the TWPAG on student teacher intake. The model is based on a variety of factors including: population projections, the pupil and teacher censuses; the age profile of the teacher workforce; post probation employment rates; assumptions about the leaver and returner rates; the requirement for a supply pool; and that PTRs will remain constant. The model has also been reviewed and updated to reflect vacancy rates collected from local authorities on 20 September 2017.

3. In addition to taking account of the model output, TWPAG also considers whatever other evidence it has about teacher supply and demand across the country.

4. In taking account of all of the information available the TWPAG has made the following recommendations:

a) Intakes to **primary** courses in 2018/19

- 1,200 for the 1-year PGDE course; and
- 710 for the 4-year undergraduate course;

b) Intakes to **secondary** courses in 2018/19

- 1,750 for the 1-year PGDE course and other new routes; and;
- 190 for the 4-year undergraduate places.

c) Intakes to **combined courses** in 2018-19

- 250 for the 4-year undergraduate combined degrees which support both primary and secondary provision.

5. A range of other routes into teaching have been introduced to help in meeting the demand for teachers in subjects where local authorities are facing recruitment difficulties. The other routes into teaching which will contribute towards Universities meeting the targets set for secondary subjects in 2018/19 are:

- Dundee University -
  - PGDE with Supported Induction Route
  - PGDE STEM Partnership Induction Model
- Edinburgh University- MSC Transformative Learning Secondary
- Glasgow University - Masters P6 to S3 Maths and Science
- UHI - UG Home Economics
- Stirling/Heriot Watt Universities - Combined degree Chemistry, Physics and Technological Education
- Strathclyde University – PGDE with Masters
- University of West of Scotland - Combined degree Chemistry & Physics

6. It is recognised that clawback of funding for under recruitment to courses is a significant issue for the ITE providers. In taking any decisions around clawback there is a need to balance efforts made by universities in terms of the recruitment of students against the fact that we should not be providing universities with funding for students not studying in schools of education. While mitigating circumstances continue to be considered in reclaiming funding for under recruitment, the Scottish Government is giving active consideration to alternative approaches to the method of clawback of funding as one of a range of options to deliver an adequate supply of teachers going into the teaching profession. We will continue to discuss this issue with SFC and Universities.

## **Other points:**

### **Requirements for teachers for Catholic schools**

7. Scottish Ministers wish to ensure that the requirements for teachers for Catholic schools are met and look to the Council to seek to secure this through its funding allocations.

8. The University of Glasgow is generally recognised as the major provider of teachers for denominational schools. However, not all students wishing to teach in denominational schools can attend the University of Glasgow and not every secondary subject is offered there. Suitably eligible students may undertake a certificate by distance learning through the Faculty of Education, Glasgow University which would allow access to teaching in Catholic schools. The Scottish Government is supporting the provision of the of the Catholic Teacher Certificate at the Universities of Strathclyde, Edinburgh and Aberdeen

### **Requirements for teachers in Gaelic medium**

9. The supply of teachers able to teach in the medium of Gaelic continues to be a priority for Scottish Ministers. The Scottish Government would like SFC to continue to assist in promoting provision in this area and to give consideration to any initiatives which could improve effectiveness. We would not wish to see any diminution the places currently allocated or in SFC continuing to encourage all ITE providers to promote a positive approach in relation to applicants for all ITE courses by interviewing all who would be able to teach in Gaelic medium education.

10. The SFC and ITE providers should be aware that Bòrd na Gàidhlig will be publishing a revised National Gaelic Language Plan for the years 2018-23. We would also like to bring to your attention the Gaelic Education Guidance that was published in February 2017 as required by the Education (Scotland) Act 2016. We would like the Council to have regard to the priorities set out in both of these documents in relation to Gaelic education matters. We would also ask the Council to continue to pursue the introduction of further avenues to increase the numbers of Gaelic medium teachers in both the primary and secondary sectors where possible, while bearing in mind that all students for ITE must meet the same minimum academic entry requirements.

### **Distribution**

11. This letter is copied to Principals of Universities, Heads of Schools/Faculties of Education. Copy recipients should bear in mind that this letter constitutes advice to SFC to assist in the setting of intakes to ITE courses. It is for SFC to decide on student intakes to ITE and to allocate the share of the intake numbers to individual institutions and course programmes.

Yours sincerely

  
  
Unit Head  
Education workforce Unit