

Q3 OAR 36621 (SUPPLEMENTARY)

6 July 2004

DP 695/03-07

Jane Davidson AM

Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol-Oes

Cardiff Bay / Bae Caerdydd
Cardiff / Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

Our Ref: MB/JD/0775/04

Your Ref:

Janet Davies AM
Member for South Wales West
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

9th August 2004

Dear Janet,

I am writing to respond to a question about initial teacher training and modern foreign languages which you raised at First Minister's questions on 6 July.

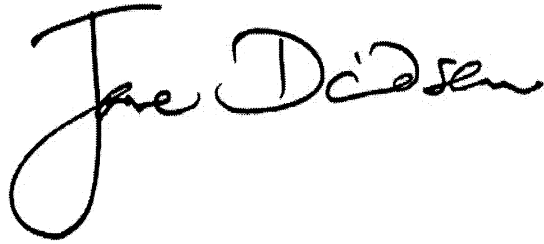
The Welsh Assembly Government is supporting modern foreign languages in initial teacher training at the moment – eligible students on secondary postgraduate courses receive £6,000 grants; if they teach in those subjects, they may receive an additional £4,000 teaching grant. For 2004-05, 125 postgraduate places in modern foreign languages have been made available, and a further 10 for undergraduate courses.

The number of teacher vacancies in secondary schools in modern foreign languages at January 2004 was very low (just one). The General Teaching Council for Wales's 2002 teacher recruitment survey showed that there were on average nearly 7 applications for every modern foreign language teaching post advertised.

In the secondary sector, the Council's survey also asked respondents about the number of teachers teaching subjects at Key Stage 4 who had degrees in the listed subject or a closely related subject. Teachers without degrees in the relevant subjects but with possible significant teaching experience in the subjects will have therefore been excluded from this data. However, even with this restriction, the data showed that for modern foreign languages at Key Stage 4, nearly 97% were teaching these subjects with a degree in the subject or a closely related subject.

At present there is no specific requirement for modern foreign languages on primary initial teacher training places in Wales. It is essential that we analyse results from the pilots promoting modern foreign languages we are currently running in primary schools to see what works well before making any final decisions. Any decisions about specific initial teacher training or in-service training developments needed will flow from that.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jane Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "D".

Jane Davidson AM
Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning