



## School Teachers

### Introduction

In Wales, at January 2006, there were:

- 74 full time equivalent teachers in service in maintained nursery schools;
- 14,018 full time equivalent teachers in service in maintained primary schools;
- 13,592 full time equivalent teachers in service in maintained secondary schools;
- 21 vacancies for teachers (including head and deputy head teachers) in primary schools;
- 58 vacancies for teachers in secondary schools;
- 13 vacancies for head and deputy head teachers in secondary schools.

The signing of [\*Raising Standards and tackling workload: a national agreement\*](#)<sup>i</sup>, took place on 15 January 2003. The agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, Trade Unions and the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Jane Davidson introduced important changes to teachers' conditions of service, to be implemented in three annual phases from September 2003. The changes included new limits on covering for absent teachers, that teachers should not routinely undertake administrative and clerical tasks and introduced guaranteed professional time for planning, preparation and assessment.

The Welsh Assembly Government commissioned a report [\*Review of Initial Teacher Training Provision in Wales\*](#) was published in January 2006<sup>ii</sup>. The aim of the review was to consider how intake targets, courses and course availability can deliver teachers with Qualified Teacher Status to better meet the needs of maintained schools in Wales. As a result, the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills announced that there would be a reduction on Initial Teacher Training (ITT) course numbers, work would begin on improving teacher workforce planning and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) would be remitted to produce a plan for a reconfiguration of Higher Education Institution ITT providers in Wales<sup>iii</sup>.

### Overview of current statutory powers of the Assembly

"Education and training" is Field 5 of Schedule 5 of the *Government of Wales Act 2006*. This means that the National Assembly for Wales can seek Measure-making powers over education matters through Legislative Competence Orders.

The following secondary legislation responsibilities of the Second Assembly will transfer to Welsh Ministers in the Third Assembly:

Setting of intake targets for recruitment to initial teacher training (ITT) courses in Wales, appraisal of teachers, determination of who is a qualified teacher, specify works that only qualified teachers may carry out in schools, requirement of qualified teachers to be registered with the General Teaching Council for Wales, conditions for serving as head teacher.

### Key Welsh Government documents from the Second Assembly:

The [\*Learning Country: Vision into Action\*](#)<sup>iv</sup> is the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic plan for education, lifelong learning and skills in Wales until 2010.

## Legacy issues from the Second Assembly

The Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee's legacy paper highlighted the following curriculum and assessment issues for the attention of the Third Assembly:

- Monitor and track progress of the Initial Teacher Training Change Plan following the publication of the Furlong Report;
- Monitor progress with regard to Continuing Professional Development.

## Useful Links

- The Welsh Assembly Government has a website covering education and lifelong learning issues: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/?lang=en>
- The General Teaching Council for Wales is the statutory self-regulating professional body for the teaching profession in Wales. Their aims are to contribute to improving standards of teaching and the quality of learning and to maintain and improve standards of professional conduct amongst teachers in the interests of the public. They work to raise the status of the profession through greater public understanding of what is involved in teaching: <http://www.gtcw.org.uk/>
- The Training and Development Agency for Schools (formerly the Teacher Training Agency) is an executive non-departmental public body of the Department for Education and Skills. The principal aim of the TDA is to secure an effective school workforce that improves children's life chances: <http://www.tda.gov.uk/>

## Further information

For further information on any aspect of school teachers, please contact Anne Thomas, Members' Research Service ([Anne.Thomas@wales.gsi.Gov.UK](mailto:Anne.Thomas@wales.gsi.Gov.UK)), 029 2089 8966

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<sup>i</sup> [Raising Standards and tackling workload: a national agreement](#)

<sup>ii</sup> [Review of Initial Teacher Training Provision in Wales](#), John Furlong, Hazel Hagger, and Cerys Butcher, January 2006

<sup>iii</sup> National Assembly for Wales, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee Paper (ELLS(2) 06-06(p2)), [Initial Teacher Training Provision - Next Steps](#), 29 March 2006

<sup>iv</sup> Welsh Assembly Government [The Learning Country: Vision into Action](#) 26 October 2006