

National Assembly for Wales Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills Committee

Secondary Legislation: 5 July 2006

Background

1. The Committee considered the following item of subordinate legislation, to be made under Standing Order 29, on Wednesday 5 July 2006. A verbatim record was taken and can be viewed on the Committee's WebPage.

The Teacher Training Incentive Scheme 2006 [ELL-15-06]

2. The Minister provided an explanatory background paper. She also provided a copy of the draft scheme. No legal consultation was required prior to the making of this scheme and no formal consultation exercise has been undertaken. The issue has been discussed at regular meetings between the Assembly Government and teacher training providers in Wales.
3. The Welsh Assembly Government offers training grants for undertaking postgraduate initial teacher training courses and teaching grants for taking up particular teaching posts. They are currently paid using powers contained in the Education Act 2002.
4. The 2006 scheme is intended to come into force in September 2006. The new package of incentives for eligible trainees that this will make available in Wales is as follows:-
 - Secondary maths and science PGCE trainees will receive a £7,200 training grant and a £5,000 teaching grant;
 - The other priority subjects are modern languages, design and technology, ICT, English (including drama) and Welsh as a second language to which music and RE are also added. Trainees on PGCE courses covering these subjects will receive a £7,200 training grant and a £2,500 teaching grant;
 - Trainees on all other secondary PGCE courses and all primary PGCE courses will receive a £4,200 training grant.
5. The scheme also makes allowance for payments to ITT students on Open University courses as well as other minor or technical changes.

Discussion

6. In discussion, clarification was sought on the following matters:
 - Whether incentives would be available to students who take courses through the medium of Welsh or are Welsh speakers;
 - Whether incentives would be available, not only to Welsh teachers teaching Welsh in a secondary school, but also to those students following a primary-school teacher-training course, through the medium of Welsh; and

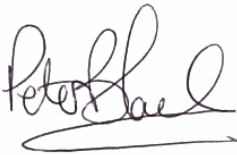
- As the legislation would only come into force in September, shortly before incentives were due to be paid, whether any students would miss out because they were not aware of the proposed changes.

5. In response, the Minister's officials provided the following information:

- Students on Welsh-medium courses through all the subjects can receive the incentive;
- Students taking a postgraduate primary course, who met the eligibility criteria as an individual, would be able to receive the incentive whether that course is being done through the medium of English or Welsh. The language of the course is not a specified issue and simply being on the course, whatever its language, would qualify a student for the incentive; and
- Students would not lose out as a result of the relatively late making of the scheme.

Committee Decision

No amendments were proposed and the Committee recommended approval of the draft scheme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Black', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Peter Black AM
Committee Chair