



Heledd Fychan AS  
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12 May 2023

Dear Heledd

During the discussion following my Oral Statement on 25 April, which provided an update on the implementation of the Welsh in education workforce: action plan, you asked for data on the number of students currently preparing to teach on an initial teacher education course, and for the numbers who have registered to train from September 2023.

Welsh Government official data is published annually and the data for the 2021/22 academic year will be published towards the end of May. In order to provide the most recent data, we have sourced unofficial data direct from ITE providers, and have shared this below with their permission. Please note that applications for courses starting in September 2023 remain open and this data will change.

### **Number of students preparing to teach through the medium of Welsh during 2022/23 academic year**

|   | <b>Primary BA with QTS<br/>(in their third year)</b> | <b>Primary<br/>PGCE</b> | <b>Secondary<br/>PGCE</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Open University                         | N/A  | 12                      | 13                        | 25           |
| University of South Wales               | 1  | 1                       | N/A                       | 2            |
| Swansea University                      | N/A  | 3                       | 8                         | 11           |
| Cardiff Metropolitan University         | 16   | 26                      | 36                        | 78           |
| Bangor University                       | 17   | 28                      | 21                        | 66           |
| Aberystwyth University                  | N/A  | 8                       | 5                         | 13           |
| University of Wales Trinity Saint David | 13   | 18                      | 3                         | 34           |

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

**Number of individuals who have applied for an ITE programme to prepare to teach through the medium of Welsh during 2023/24 academic year**

|   | Primary BA with QTS |             | Primary PGCE |             | Secondary PGCE |             |
|---|---------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
|   | Offers              | Acceptances | Offers       | Acceptances | Offers         | Acceptances |
| Open University                         | N/A                 | N/A         | 16           | 13          | 8              | 7           |
| University of South Wales               | 10                  | TBC         | 6            | TBC         | N/A            | N/A         |
| Swansea University                      | N/A                 | N/A         | 6            | 2           | 6              | 3           |
| Cardiff Metropolitan University         | 42                  | 19          | 36           | 21          | 31             | 19          |
| Bangor University                       | 27                  | 20          | 15           | 12          | 16             | 10          |
| Aberystwyth University                  | N/A                 | N/A         | 18           | 8           | 5              | 2           |
| University of Wales Trinity Saint David | 27                  | 12          | 34           | 17          | 1              | 1           |

You also asked about how providers are monitored. Our ITE Partnerships have been delivering the new ITE Programmes since academic year 2019/20. The requirement for the ITE Partnerships to work towards an intake of 30% of students preparing to teach through the medium of Welsh has been in place since academic year 2020/21.

The EWC's independent Teacher Education Accreditation Board's role is to scrutinise every programme of ITE submitted to be delivered in Wales. The experts on the Board ensure that each programme is demanding, credible and professionally appropriate. This interrogation includes scrutiny of the ITE Partnerships' recruitment strategies for filling their allocated places with high calibre and highly capable candidates. Under the 2012 Regulations no programme of ITE in Wales can award Qualified Teacher Status without being accredited by the Board.

As well as the initial process to gain accreditation of their ITE programmes, ITE Partnerships are subject to ongoing monitoring by the Board. This is a statutory function of the EWC and accredited status can be removed from a programme should monitoring reveal that it no-longer meets the Criteria for accreditation of ITE programmes in Wales. In addition accreditation is time limited to a period as recommended by the Board. If monitoring returns to the EWC do not evidence an increase in the number of Welsh-medium students then Partnerships may be required to provide written evidence of their actions to achieve this.

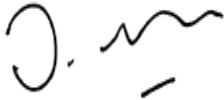
Due to the severe impact of the pandemic, monitoring, including recruitment as a condition of accreditation, has rightly been light touch. Academic year 2022/23, represents the third year of delivery under the new ITE system and recruitment for academic year 2023/24 is underway. Where ITE Partnerships consistently fail to recruit sufficiently against their allocations EWC has the ability to potentially re-allocate places across ITE programmes if demand is outstripping supply in some areas or subjects, or conversely is failing to meet the required levels.

The refreshed Criteria for accreditation of ITE programmes in Wales document, published on 10 May, strengthens further the requirements around recruitment and the role of schools in ITE Partnerships. Schools involved with ITE are equal partners, jointly accountable for all aspects of ITE programmes with their partner HEI, including recruitment performance. All schools in Wales, including those not currently engaged with ITE, are vital in the recruitment

of ITE students. They are a key component of the ITE student teacher 'pipeline' providing capable and high-quality individuals capable of learning to teach through the medium of Welsh. Their role and responsibility in engaging, producing, and supporting potential future teachers cannot be over emphasised.

I have been clear that meeting the targets for increasing the number of teachers requires a partnership approach. I have established an External Implementation Group, including all the organisations that are instrumental in driving forward the actions, to ensure a coherent approach to delivering a wide-ranging plan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg  
Minister for Education and Welsh Language