

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING SUPPORT

Purpose

1. This paper is for information only. At the Committee's meeting on 14 November the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning promised to provide members with a note on initial teacher training incentive payments. Information is also provided on the number of trainees on initial teacher training courses in Wales, and on the number of graduate teachers in schools in Wales.

2. This paper covers specific initial teacher training funding, and not wider student support measures such as student loans, Hardship Loans and Access/Hardship Funds. It also does not deal with in-service teacher training support, e.g. Grants for Education Support and Training (GEST).

National Assembly initial teacher training incentives

3. A grant of £6,000 will be available to all eligible postgraduate trainees during their initial teacher training course from September 2001. For one-year courses the grant is to be paid in nine monthly instalments from October to June. The payments from October to May inclusive will be £650; the final payment in June will be £800. In England, the £6,000 is paid in 9 equal monthly instalments from October to June.

4. In addition, a further £4,000 will be available to those studying maths, science, modern foreign languages, technology or Welsh at secondary level who take up a secondary teaching post in those subjects and who successfully complete their first year of teaching. The same level of funding is available in England; the qualifying subjects are the same, with the addition of English.

5. Full details of the grants in Wales are set out in guidance material issued by the National Assembly, a copy of which is attached.

6. The grants in Wales were introduced for courses in 2000-01 (and for primary postgraduate courses only in the current academic year, 2001-02). The requirement to successfully complete the first year of teaching means that the first payments of the £4,000 teaching incentives will not be made earlier than September 2002. The Welsh Assembly Government has announced that the primary postgraduate grants will also be available for 2002-03 and the grants for postgraduates at secondary level will be available up to 2003-04 at least; a review of the grants would follow.

National Assembly Welsh medium incentive supplement

7. An incentive payment worth £1,200 is available to some students who undertake secondary initial teacher training through the medium of Welsh on qualifying courses. This is aimed at those students who need additional assistance to raise confidence and competence, so that they can teach through the medium of Welsh. When qualified, there is an expectation that a teaching post would be sought in a Welsh medium school.

8. Courses which qualify for this supplement will vary from year to year and students needing information on these can obtain it direct from the initial teacher

training providers. Decisions on eligibility for this incentive are made by the institutions involved in the scheme and students are asked to check their eligibility with them when applying.

9. As with the initial teacher training incentives, payments are made to the students by the initial teacher training institutions using funding provided to them by the National Assembly. The grant is paid in two installments of £600.

National Assembly Graduate Teacher Programme

10. The Graduate Teacher Programme enables schools to employ people who are not yet qualified to teach and train through an individual training programme leading to Qualified Teacher Status. The benefit for trainees is that they can qualify as a teacher while they work. The Graduate Teacher Programme suits people who want to change to a teaching career and earn a living while they train. It is also appropriate for those who have relevant experience teaching overseas or in other areas such as the further education or independent school sectors.

11. The Graduate Teacher Programme usually involves one year of postgraduate training. Trainees must have a first degree to qualify. Trainees need to find a job at a school and have their application put forward by a 'recommending body' – that is, the school, LEA, university or initial teacher training provider responsible for organising the training.

12. The National Assembly provides funding to schools for salary and other purposes of up to £13,000 (for up to 40 full-year places in the current financial year) and, through GEST, provides funding for training. This funding does not go direct to the trainee but encourages schools to consider offering places which might not otherwise have been possible. For the trainee, the placement offers the security of being employed by a school and receiving a salary while they train. The funding position in England is the same, except that instead of the GEST scheme, the recommending body receives a grant of up to £4,000 for training.

13. Since the Graduate Teacher Programme started in 1998 a total of 33 people have gained Qualified Teacher Status on this scheme in Wales. A further 41 people are currently on the Programme here. The Graduate Teacher Programme in England is offering approximately 2,250 places this year.

Note 1: As a result of the requirement to register with General Teaching Council for Wales, a small number of cases of teachers without Qualified Teacher Status have come to light. In almost all cases, the easiest way for those teachers to acquire Qualified Teacher Status and regularise their position is to undertake the Graduate Teacher Programme in their schools. For experienced teachers, these courses can last as little as one term. In these cases, the National Assembly funding is not available as the schools are already employing the teachers.

Note 2: A similar scheme to the Graduate Teacher Programme but aimed at those who are working towards their higher education qualifications is the Registered Teacher Programme. This requires applicants to have successfully completed two years of higher education (or the part-time equivalent) and complete a degree while they train; the programme normally takes two years. Direct grants to schools are not made but funding is available through GEST for

training. This funding does not go direct to the trainee but will support schools offering places.

Other initial teacher training-specific financial support

14. **Tuition Fees:** Eligible students on a postgraduate initial teacher training programme should not have to pay any tuition fees. This applies in Wales and England.

15. **Teacher Training Recruitment Scheme:** Provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. Two elements of this scheme may provide support to trainee teachers: Secondary Undergraduate Placement Grants and Hardship funding. The scheme will be reviewed after 2002-03.

16. The Secondary Undergraduate Placement Grants will pay placement grants of £1,000 per funded students on undergraduate secondary shortage subject courses (maths, science, modern foreign languages, technology or Welsh) and £600 to students on undergraduate secondary non-shortage subject courses. The grants are designed to support trainees during their school-based practice. Hardship funding may be available to provide a small hardship grant to students where unforeseen difficulties arise which may prevent them from remaining on the course.

17. There is no directly comparable scheme in England. Further training awards beyond the £6,000 grants in England may be made, based on financial need, to secondary trainees on undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses. Students must be studying one of the following subjects: mathematics, science, modern foreign languages, design and technology, information and communications technology, religious education, music or geography. Maximum payments in any one year are £5,000 (£7,500 for those aged 25 or over). These maximum amounts are only awarded in exceptional circumstances and there is no automatic entitlement to any level of payment, however small.

Students completing ITT courses in Wales

18. The latest statistics on the number of students on initial teacher training courses in Wales are shown below. This table also shows how many of these were on postgraduate courses.

Students on ITT courses in Wales, by level of study and gender (a)

	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01
Men:					
Postgraduate Certificate of Education	495	460	454	430	467
First Degree leading to QTS	643	536	484	407	395
Total	1,138	996	938	837	862
Women:					
Postgraduate Certificate of Education	906	906	887	980	1,080
First Degree leading to QTS	2,708	2,524	2,481	1,950	1,934
Total	3,614	3,430	3,368	2,930	3,014
Persons:					
Postgraduate Certificate of Education	1,401	1,366	1,341	1,410	1,547
First Degree leading to QTS	3,351	3,060	2,965	2,357	2,329
Total	4,752	4,426	4,306	3,767	3,876

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

19. Information is based on enrolments at December each year, so data for 2001-02 is not yet available. Data for 2000-01 is provisional.

Compliance

20. Section 50 of the Education (No.2) Act 1986 makes provision for regulations to be made for the payment by the National Assembly of grants to facilitate and encourage the training of teachers. The relevant section of this Act was transferred to the Assembly by the Transfer of Functions Order 1999. The functions have been delegated to the Assembly Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.

Financial Implications

21. Funding for the National Assembly's grants can be accommodated within existing and planned budgets.

Action for the Committee

22. To note.

Contact Point

23. Teaching and Leadership Division.