

# Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee

## ELLS(2) 11-06(Paper 1) Annex E

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### **FUNDING OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) IN WALES**

As you know, the Assembly Government is firmly committed to strengthening teachers' Continuing Professional Development, to ensure that it is tailored to both the needs of the individual and the needs of the schools in which they work, and ultimately important in terms of pupils' attainment. You will also know that we have put in place programmes to support teachers throughout their careers from Induction and Early Professional Development through individual development opportunities to middle management leadership and headship training.

Over recent years we have made great inroads into the professional development of teachers, but the pace of change within education means that no teacher can afford to stand still and teachers need to keep up-to-date and refresh their skills and knowledge if they are to cope with the many exciting challenges of teaching in the future. We need therefore to ensure that professional development opportunities continue to be available at all stages of a teacher's career.

Against this background, you have been working to develop a Professional Development Framework for teachers, and when we met last summer to discuss your advice on the Framework, I undertook to publish a statement on the funding of CPD in Wales.

As you will see from the table at Annex E1, in 2005-06 the Welsh Assembly Government made available over £59 million (excluding INSET days) to support teachers CPD. In addition to the more traditional funding streams for CPD, the table highlights that the Assembly Government provides significant support for teachers to undertake training on a wide range of other issues.

I should point out, however, that the table is only a snap shot of Assembly funded CPD and that by its very nature funding for CPD varies from year to year given that funding is set against the training needs of new programmes/policy development. For example, £81,000 was available as a one off initiative for PLASC training in 2005-06 . This year additional money is being made available to

support the Learning Pathways Initiative.

The figure of £59 million also only reflects Assembly funded CPD and not that provided by LEAs. Assembly officials have, as you know, had preliminary discussions with ADEW and GTCW officials about the need to identify LEA/school spend on CPD. ADEW are unlikely to be able to begin considering the matter of LEA spend until the end of June. I will write to you again when we have a comprehensive picture of the various funding streams and their interdependencies.

In addition to providing basic information on Assembly funded CPD, we have also attempted to track the CPD opportunities that are currently available to teachers at the different stages of their careers and to map the source of funding (see table at Annex E2). You can see from this the breadth of training that teachers can currently access, whether it is provided by the Assembly Government, LEAs, or schools and I would be interested to know whether you see merit in developing further the table at Annex E2, perhaps as a tool for teachers, particularly NQTs, or something that could be displayed in staff rooms.

I look forward to hearing from you.