

6 February 2018

Hayden Llewellyn  
Chief Executive  
Education Workforce Council  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Eastgate House  
35-43 Newport Road  
Cardiff CF24 0AB

Dear Haydn,

**ITE accreditations about the allocation of student teacher places**

At their meeting on 1 February, members of USCET expressed concern about the implications of the information contained in your letter to ITE providers dated 5 January 2018.

In the letter you state that new ITE programmes will be accredited by June 2018 and that student number places will be confirmed in September. You also say that the accreditation of programmes will not be any guarantee that allocations for these programmes will be forthcoming.

It is we think potentially unreasonable for the EWC and Welsh Government to expect teacher education partnerships to invest resources in, and appoint the specialist staff needed to deliver programmes, when they might not then be allocated any places to deliver the programmes concerned. It may be unlikely, in fact, that university Vice Chancellors and finance directors would countenance such speculative investments, particularly given the expectations (at programme, not partnership, level) of staffing ratios. ITE programmes are already delivered at or close to cost, and the uncertainty that the proposed allocations timetable could bring might be enough to convince some universities that ITE is not worth investing in. That would in turn undermine the teacher supply base in Wales and add to existing recruitment difficulties.

Members of USCET fully appreciate that the requests for ITE places might exceed demand. However, at a time of teacher shortage it would seem to

make little sense to artificially cap recruitment to ITE when there are so many unfilled teaching posts in schools. This has been recognised in England where ITE providers are allowed to recruit as many student teachers as they like across all programmes other than secondary PE and a small number of specialist employment based primary courses. The same approach might be considered for Wales.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further.

Yours sincerely,

James Noble-Rogers

Copy: Gemma Nye