

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER



Department of  
**Education**

[www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk)

Rathgael House  
43 Balloo Road  
Rathgill  
BANGOR  
BT19 7PR

[private.office@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@education-ni.gov.uk)

James Noble-Rogers  
Executive Director  
UCET

[info@ucet.ac.uk](mailto:info@ucet.ac.uk)

9 November 2021

Our Ref: CORR-1644-2021

Dear *James*,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 22 October 2021, on behalf of the Universities' Council for the Education of Teachers in Northern Ireland (UCETNI), in relation to the teacher supply needs of schools in Northern Ireland (NI).

I agree that this is an issue where the historical practices used to assess the future need for teachers, and to ensure our teaching workforce has sufficient capacity across all subject specialisms, may no longer be fit for their intended purpose; and would benefit from a review to ensure we are continuing to build a teaching workforce with the capacity, knowledge and skillsets needed to effectively deliver full NI Curriculum.

While I am glad that you have found the Department's Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Working Group to be a helpful forum to be part of during these last two years, I consider this issue to be an important strategic concern which would require the establishment of a wider, dedicated working group and I will need to consider how this can most effectively be taken forward within the many competing Departmental priorities which exist.

I will ask DE officials coordinating the ITE Working Group to keep its members updated on this issue as our thinking develops.

Regards

*Michelle McIlveen*

**Michelle McIlveen MLA**  
**Minister of Education**



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