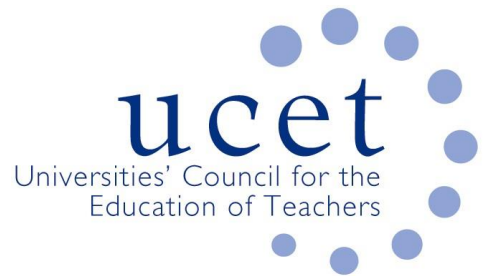


Promoting Quality in Teacher Education



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7 September 2022

Rt. Hon Kit Malthouse MP
Secretary of State for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State, and to suggest a solution to the teacher supply problems that will result from the review of the ITE Market.

According to some media reports, as many as 40% of ITE providers could lose their right to deliver teacher education programmes from September 2024. A 40% reduction in ITE provision would have a huge negative impact on teacher supply at a time when schools are increasingly short of the teachers they need. The impact on children's learning could be devastating. It is unlikely that any resulting gaps in supply could be covered through the expansion of existing partnerships and the accreditation of new providers, particularly since many providers losing their accreditation are likely to withdraw in 2023/24 rather than wait until 2024/25, while others- are, even if successful, considering contracting their provision to reduce future exposure to risk.

An analysis of the results of round 1 of the accreditation process casts significant doubt on the robustness and consistency of the methodology used. We will support our member institutions in any actions they decide to take in contesting the results.

There is a solution that would ensure that DfE meets its ITE policy objectives while at the same time protecting the teacher supply base. This would involve all current ITE providers keeping their accreditation to deliver programmes from 2024/25 and, during 2024/25 and beyond, conducting a comprehensive audit to ensure that the programmes they deliver do meet the new Quality Requirements. The intervening period could be used to help the sector prepare for the launch of the new programmes in September 2024.

Our suggestion represents a pragmatic and collegiate attempt to find a solution to what will become a serious problem for schools in this country. It will ensure that all stated government objectives are met while at the same time maintaining the teacher supply base and the continuation of tried and tested ITE provision. We trust that it will be given the consideration it deserves.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

James Noble-Rogers
Executive Director