Promoting Quality in Teacher Education

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UCET SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

The most significant development for teacher education this term, certainly for colleagues in England, was the **General Election** held on 4 July and the return of a new Labour Government and the appointment of Bridget Phillipson as Secretary of State and Catherine McKinnell and Jacquie Smith as Ministers of State with responsibilities for teacher education and teacher supply. UCET has been laying the groundwork for the a change on government, and has already met with Catherine McKinnell and has had subsequent correspondence, for example in relation to the UCET manifesto/briefing paper, a version of which was published in the Spring and a more glossy version, which incudes case studies submitted by UCET members, issued more recently: UCET manifesto briefing paper (July 2024) | UCET. We have reached out to new ministers and have already had a number of meetings with officials. Copies of our recent letters to Catherine McKinnell and Jacquie Smith can be found at: News: Letter to Catherine McKinnell, MP, Minister of State for Schools | UCETand Letter to Rt. Hon. Jacquie Smith MP, Secretary of State for Education | UCET Key parts of Labour's election manifesto include: recruiting 6,500 new teachers; reviewing ITE bursaries and retention payments; updating the ECF; and a new teacher training entitlement for qualified teachers.

Another political development was the publication in May of the **Education Select Committee** report into teacher recruitment, retention and training, a copy of which can be found at: Teacher recruitment, training and retention - Committees - UK Parliament. The report referenced UCET's written evidence (https://www.ucet.ac.uk/15138/evidence-to-education-select-committee-updated-june-2023) and included quotes made in the press by JNR[1][2] about the inexplicable and damaging cuts made by DfE to funding for **SKE and International Relocation Payments (IRPs)**. Relevant recommendations made by the Select Committee include: DfE should monitor the impact of the Market Review reforms on regional teacher supply; the reversal of DfE decisions to cease funding for Now Teach, International Relocation Payments (IRPs) and SKE; the collection by DfE of better data on regional teacher supply needs; ITE bursaries to cover more subjects and phases; an increase in smaller bursaries; and the extension of the Teacher Workforce Model (which sets ITE QTS targets) to cover the FE & skills sector. UCET's clear impact on the report was good to see and we hope that the incoming Government will take its findings seriously.

Ofsted has been conducting its '*Big Listen*' exercise and UCET has submitted a response on behalf of the sector: OfSTED 'Big Listen' Consultation: UCET Response

[1] £10k payment for teacher trainees from overseas is cut | Tes https://schoolsweek.co.uk/dfe-inexplicably-cuts-back-10k-teacher-relocation-premium/

[2] ITT: SKE funding cuts 'unprecedented', Keegan told | Tes

(May 2024) | UCET. We are grateful to all those who contributed to our response. A meeting with HMCI scheduled for June had to be postponed because of General Election purdah but is being rescheduled for later in July. We were also very grateful to colleagues from Edge Hill, Leicester and UCL for leading a special UCET workshop on their recent OfSTED inspection experiences.

The new degree level **apprenticeship** was, as notified in the Easter newsletter, published on 5 February, alongside details of a funded pilot in secondary mathematics News: DfE: Teacher Degree Apprenticeship and funding pilot (February 2024) | UCETNews: DfE: Teacher Degree Apprenticeship and funding pilot (February 2024) | UCET. The funding band for the apprenticeship has been confirmed at the maximum level of £27,000.

We are pleased to confirm that UCET has agreed to provide the Equalities sub-group, chaired by Vini Lander, with more than £3,000 to carry out further research into the **anti-racism framework for ITE,** with an equivalent amount kindly being provided by the NEU. We look forward to seeing the results of the research as soon as it is available. We have also agreed to fund three **Gordon Kirk Travel Scholarships** worth up to £2,000 each for colleagues from UCET member institutions to carry out research overseas. The three recipients are: Jaswinder Dhillon (tackling gender, caste and class issues through teacher education); Declan Hamblin (PE pedagogies, with reference to practice in Ontario); and Lizana Oberholzer (leadership development in South African schools).

USCET Cymru has, at the request of the Welsh Government, published a new paper that celebrates the contribution that ITE providers in Wales make to meeting national education priorities in Wales while also explaining again some of the pressures facing the sector, including those relating to financial pressures and unsustainable regulatory pressures. A copy of the paper can be found at: USCET Cymru: Initial Teacher Education in Wales: contributing to the National Mission | UCET and we have had a meeting with Welsh Government, the Education Workforce Council and Estyn to discuss its findings. We have also commissioned some research, to be carried out by Moira Hulme, on ITE in Wales. In **Northern Ireland,** the first meeting of the working group to discuss arrangements for the accreditation of ITE programmes took place immediately after the April UCETNI and NIHELG meetings in Belfast. Meetings to discuss the impact of the delivery of iQTS programmes in Northern Irland have also taken place and a letter outlining some of the issues has been sent to the Minister for Education.

DfE has published a list of approved ITE qualifications (Recognised further education teacher training courses eligible for student support: 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) for the **FE & Skills sector** that will be eligible for public funding. There is some flexibility in regard to the list, especially for 2024/25 which DfE see as being a transitional year. The key requirement is that the qualifications have to be delivered at the requisite level by institutions with Degree Awarding Powers. The new Diploma in Teaching (DIT) is not included on the list, but this is only because OFQUAL accredited DITs will not be eligible for public funding. All publicly fundable qualifications have to be 'DIT compliant' but can use other nomenclature. HEIs can, if they choose, still use the 'DIT' title (despite it not being on the list) for programmes that meet the funding eligibility criteria. An issue has also arisen over where teachers undergoing professional formation for **QTLS** can undertake their professional formation. ETF has proposed that it should take place in FE settings or, if in schools, only when teaching technical subjects linked to IFATE specifications, thus ruling out those teaching, for example, A levels in school sixth forms. UCET has suggested that the determining factor should be the ages of those being taught rather than the subjects and legal status of the buildings the teaching is

carried out in. We have also called for a careful analysis of the impact of an such decision before it is implemented.

Registration is now open for the **2024 UCET conference (www.ucet/conference)** which will take place on 12-13 November at the Queen's Hotel in Leeds. The theme of the conference will be: *'A space in which to celebrate and create inquiry-rich teacher education'.* Confirmed keynotes and plenary sessions include: Christine Counsell, Adam Vasco; Aimee Quickfall & Phil Wood; and Jospeh Mintz. There will also be panel discussions on: (a) the role of HEI teacher education partnerships in the sharing and creation of research through HEI-school partnerships (including Stefanie Sullivan and Clare Brooks); and (b) a presentation from members of the Climate Change sub-group. The evening entertainment will be a Dolly Parton tribute.

The World Assembly of the International Council on Education for Teaching (**ICET**) took place in Braga Portugal in June and JNR's report on the Assembly, and the ICET Board meeting, is available at: ICET: 65th World Assembly (Braga, Portugal): report | UCET JNR was also pleased to speak on behalf of UCET at a panel discussion at the schools and academies show at the Excel Centre in London and to visit UCET members, including UEL, Huddersfield and Northumbria.

There will be several changes to the membership of the **Executive Committee** from 2024/25 and we would like to thank those who will be leaving the committee for their outstanding service (especially outgoing Treasurer Roger Woods who has served in various capacities, including Chair and Vice Chair, for some 20 years).

Those leaving the Executive are:

- Roger Woods (replaced by Kevin Mattinson)
- Jan Ashbridge, Primary chair (replaced by Meghan Stephenson)
- Lynn Senior, Post 16 chair (replaced by Jo Eliott)
- Tricia Eaton, NI Chair (replaced by Martin Hagan)

A special thanks also goes to UCET's Policy Officer **Jackie Moses** who will be leaving us in the summer. Jackie has provided outstanding support over her many years in post and we thank her and wish her well.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer.

UCET
July 2024

