

30th October 2024

Dear

ATISN 21989 FOI Request

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 3rd October 2024. You asked for: Information regarding the take-up of the Minority Ethnic Initial Teacher Education incentive grant scheme (the 'scheme') since its launch, including the financial spend to date under the scheme. Information regarding the eligibility criteria under the Minority Ethnic Initial Teacher Education incentive grant scheme; the socio-economic background of teachers in Wales; and other policy interventions to support people from low-income backgrounds to enter the teaching profession in Wales.

Our response

Some of the information you requested is enclosed.

Enquires from students about their eligibility for the scheme will for the most part be made to their initial teacher education provider. Student's applications for the scheme are submitted to the Welsh Government by their initial teacher education provider. Initial teacher education providers are responsible for administering aspects of the scheme, including assessing the eligibility of students. Initial teacher education providers submit applications for students they have assessed against the eligibility criteria and consider to be eligible to the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government therefore does not hold information on how many students enquire about their eligibility for the scheme and are rejected by their initial teacher education provider, only the numbers who successfully apply.

In total, since its introduction, 103 students have applied to the scheme and 101 have been registered on it. The numbers per scheme year are:

- Academic year 2022-2023 (the scheme's first year): 43 students applied and 41 were registered.
- Academic year 2023-2024: 60 students applied and 60 were registered.
- Academic year 2023-2024: Applications have not yet been received by the Welsh Government.

In total, since the scheme's introduction, £4,000 has been spent on its administration (exclusive of VAT). The amount spent per scheme year (exclusive of VAT) is:

- Academic year 2022-2023: £1,700
- Academic year 2023-2024: £2,300
- Academic year 2024-2025: No money has yet been spent on the scheme's administration.

In total, since the scheme's introduction, £235,000 has, so far, been paid to eligible persons registered on the scheme (registrants). The amount paid out per scheme year is:

- Academic year 2022-2023: £90,000 has been paid to registrants who achieved Qualified Teacher Status at the end of their initial teacher education programme. This represents the first instalment of the incentive. The second instalment is paid once

registrants have successfully completed their statutory induction period within a maintained school in Wales. Claims for this instalment are still being received, and so far, £22,500 has been paid out. In total £115,000 has been paid out to registrants from academic year 2022-2023.

- Academic year 2023-2024: £120,000 has been paid to registrants who achieved Qualified Teacher Status at the end of their initial teacher education programme (first instalment). Claims for the second instalment (after completion of the statutory induction period) are not expected until 2025 as the statutory induction period is typically completed within one academic year but can take less, or longer to complete. In total £120,000 has been paid out to registrants from academic year 2023-2024.
- Academic year 2024-25: No money has yet been paid out. Qualified Teacher Status is awarded on successful completion of a programme of initial teacher education, typically occurring at the end of the summer term.

Welsh Government's initial teacher education incentive schemes are not intended to provide financial support for students studying an initial teacher education programme, although we are aware that they may be used to do so. The initial teacher education incentive schemes are intended to incentivise graduates, who may have numerous career options available to them, to consider teaching as a career and to complete the key points of a teacher's statutory training to become fully qualified. Therefore, the application process does not include a financial assessment. The scheme is accessible to anyone who meets the eligibility criteria, and the criteria do not have regard for the financial means of an applicant.

The Welsh Government does not hold information on the socio-economic background of teachers.

There are 'alternative' routes into teaching, procured and supported by the Welsh Government and offered by the Open University. The alternative initial teacher education routes are a Welsh Government scheme which includes a level of grant funding for eligible individuals. They were introduced to widen access to initial teacher education to those from low-income backgrounds who may need to work or balance caring or other responsibilities alongside their studies. These programmes are intended to support graduates wishing to enter the teaching profession who would not otherwise be able to via a full-time initial teacher education programme. This may include those from low-income households/backgrounds, parents or adult-carers, career changers, and those living in rural areas unable to access a regional university. There is a part-time programme and a salaried programme. More details about these routes can be found on the Open University website here <https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/choose/wales/pgce> and on the Welsh Government website here: <https://www.gov.wales/salaried-postgraduate-certificate-education-pgce>.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely