

Background briefing document

Engagement forum on
teacher workforce
planning

8 December 2023

Introduction

This paper was prepared for an engagement forum on teacher workforce planning which is due to take place in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise on 8 December 2023.

This paper gives a brief overview of a selection of our work from November 2022 to November 2023 including details relating to:

- The overall register of teachers;
- Garda vetting disclosures processed;
- Fitness to teach complaints, inquiries, and findings;
- Tailored registration processes, including teachers who qualified in Ukraine;
- Droichead applications;
- Public engagement;
- Longitudinal research collaboration with the Department of Education.

This paper is intended to give a snapshot of our ongoing work. Further information on our work can be obtained on teachingcouncil.ie or by emailing info@teachingcouncil.ie.

Priority areas since November 2022

Fitness to teach

- 354 complaints received since July 2016
- 54 complaints received from 1 November 2022 - 31 October 2023 with 8 referred to Inquiry during this same period

Online My Registration portal

- Enhanced registration functions
- Data collation/extraction to support research coordinated by the Department of Education
- Irish language portal live

Review and accreditation

- 52 programmes of initial teacher education reviewed and accredited under second cycle
- One new further education programme accredited

Tailored registration process

- Fast-track NQT registration process
- Covid Amendment Regulation process
- Ukrainian registration process



**121,405
registered
teachers**



Garda vetting

- Over 45,022 vetting disclosures processed since January 2023

Longitudinal research

- Collaborative research project with the Department of Education exploring the experiences of beginning teachers in Ireland, over the first nine years of their careers

Droichead

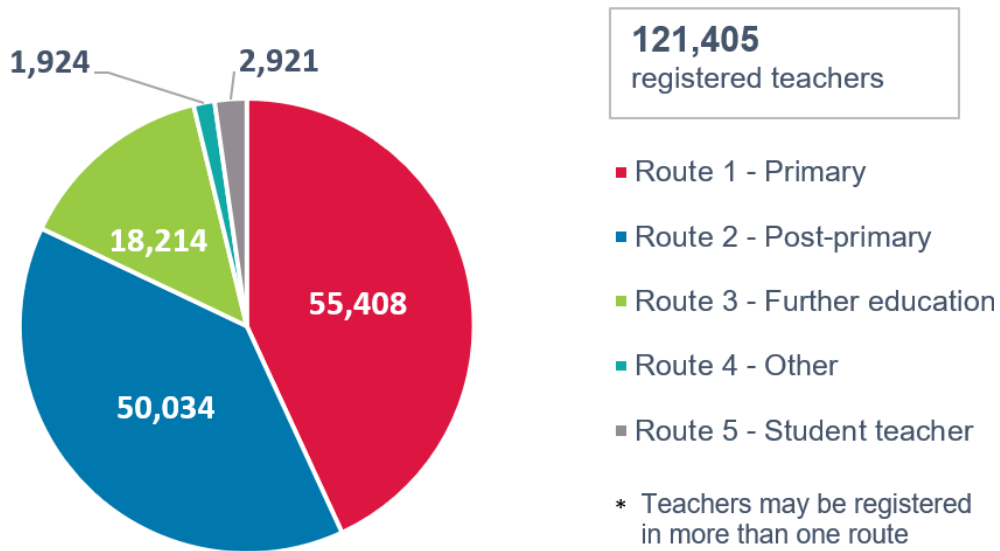
- 3,757 applications processed since 1 September 2023
- Droichead can now be completed by primary NQTs employed on supply panels or in principal release time posts

Public engagement

- FÉILTE 2023 hosted with 410 in attendance
- 53 career fairs attended across Ireland and Northern Ireland
- New website launched in English and Gaeilge which is more accessible for the public

Registration figures

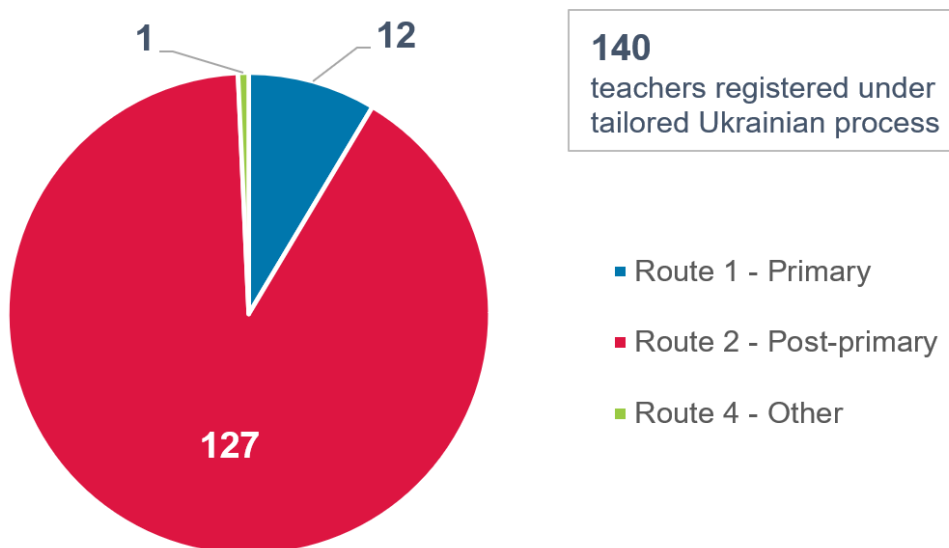
Register of teachers



Figures correct as of 01 December 2023

Teachers qualified in Ukraine

Our tailored registration process for teachers who qualified in Ukraine opened in April 2022. There are 140 teachers registered as of 22 November under this process.



Fast-track NQT process

We operate a fast-track registration process for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) each year. Registration for 3,744 new graduates was completed under this process between May and August 2023 with an average processing time of less than four weeks per application.

Student teachers

2,921 student teachers are currently registered under Route 5, with 557 applications in progress.

In October of each year, a cohort of student teachers become eligible for registration under Route 5. Since mid-October 2023, 1,621 student teachers have applied for registration. 1,064 of these registrations have been completed and 557 are in progress. The average processing time for student teacher registration is less than four weeks per application.

Processes to support teacher workforce planning

Return to the register process

We are currently developing a tailored registration process for teachers applying to return to the Register. These applications will be placed in a priority queue for processing. It is anticipated that this process will commence in mid-December.

Droichead – supply panels and principal release time posts

We have introduced a timebound measure to enable primary NQTs employed on supply panels or in principal release time posts to complete the Droichead process. We have introduced this measure to provide NQTs with every opportunity to complete the Droichead process.

Teaching Council Amendment Regulation 2023

In February 2023, we re-introduced a temporary amendment that allows eligible teachers who qualify outside of the Republic of Ireland to apply for registration and complete their induction in Ireland. As of 20 November 2023, 205 applications have been received with 94 teachers registered under the amendment. The amendment regulation closes for applications on 1 February 2024.

Ongoing reviews and commissioned research

Initial Teacher Education: Programme Accreditation

The second cycle of review and accreditation of existing primary and post-primary programmes of initial teacher education (ITE) commenced in November 2021. 52 existing programmes at 14 higher education institutions have been reviewed since the cycle commenced. The cycle will formally conclude in January 2024 ensuring that all programmes of primary and post-primary ITE are aligned with Céim: Standards for Initial Teacher Education and that students receive a high standard of initial teacher

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education. We have also prioritised the review of new programmes in target subject areas such as Gaeilge, Languages, Home Economics, and Technology subjects.

Review of Qualifications Assessment processes

We conducted a review of our qualification assessment processes for teachers who qualify outside of the Republic of Ireland from February to July 2023. This included improvements to the design of our application process and website, removing the requirement for certain documents, implementing an enhanced follow-up process for incomplete applications, and introducing new processing tools and document software. In comparison to the same period in 2022, the average processing time for post-primary applications reduced from 11 weeks to 8 weeks while the average processing time for primary applications remained consistent at 3-4 weeks. An additional 8% of applications were finalised for registration when compared with Q1 and Q2 (increase of 414-447 applications). The Council also gained significant knowledge in relation to its document requirements which is being explored further in the second phase of the review, September – March 2024.

Northern Ireland

Phase 2 of the review also involves direct engagement with a Northern Ireland ITE provider to explore piloting expedited application mechanisms for certain cohorts of graduates.

Longitudinal research

In an important strategic collaboration, we have partnered with the Department of Education (DoE) to co-fund a significant longitudinal research project

in relation to the experiences of beginning teachers in Ireland. The research will investigate beginning teachers' professional journeys over the first nine years of their careers, and the key personal, educational, professional, and systemic influences that define and shape their early careers and practice including the impact of Initial Teacher Education.

Following the tender evaluation process, a contract was signed with the successful tenderer – a consortium involving UL, MIC, and the ESRI – and the project has now commenced.

Digital developments

My Registration online portal

The online portal can be used to access a range of services such as registration, vetting, and renewal of registration. Further enhancements have been made this year particularly in the areas of initial registration, student teacher registration, the NQT registration and Droichead. Improvements to the portal has aided the collation and extraction of our data, which is being shared with the DoE to support teacher workforce planning.

In July 2023, the Irish language portal went live which provides all portal information and services as Gaeilge.

New website

In September 2023, our new website teachingcouncil.ie was launched in both English and Gaeilge which is more accessible and provides a better user experience for both teachers and the public. We welcome any feedback to help further improve the site. Feedback can be emailed to communications@teachingcouncil.ie

Fitness to teach

Since 25 July 2016
(commencement of Part 5 of the Teaching Council Act 2001)



Past 12 months
(1 November 2022 – 31 October 2023)



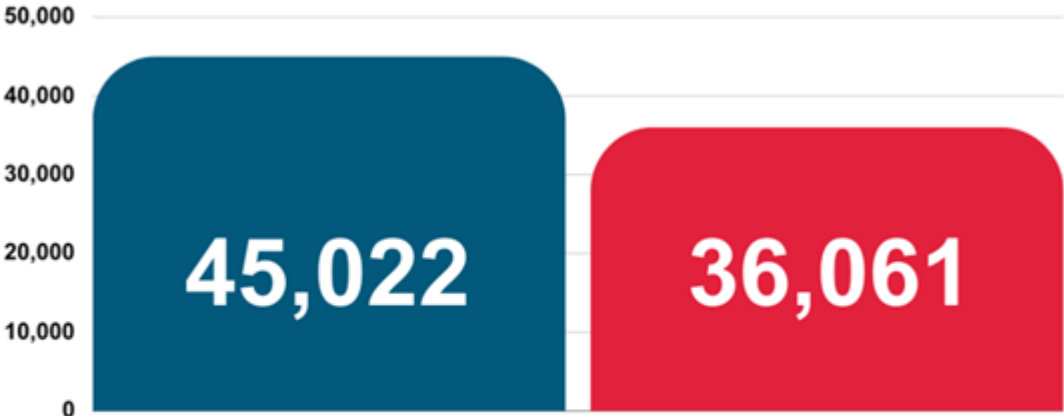
*The conduct involved in these complaints included dishonest conduct, inappropriate communications/relationships with students and convictions for serious offences. These complaints were not necessarily received in the preceding 12 months.

** 18 hearing days in the past 12 months.

Garda vetting

All teachers are legally required to be vetted by the National Vetting Bureau before working with children or vulnerable persons. It is our role to administer vetting for teachers in Ireland.

From 1 January 2023 to 21 November 2023



45,022 vetting disclosures have been processed.

36,091 teachers have been vetted as part of the re-vetting process which occurs every three years.