



Department of Education and Science

Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH

Telephone 01-928 9222

From the Secretary of State

T Flesher Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Prime Minister:

This will
cause a fuss!

5 August 1982

s/s.

Dear Jim,

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

... I enclose a copy of the letter which my Secretary of State has recently sent to Dr Butler, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers. The next step is for the global figures for initial teacher training students to be translated into targets for individual institutions. It is proposed to inform colleges of their provisional intake targets for 1983-85 at the end of this week, giving them until the middle of September to comment: the final figures will be issued in October.

Under the provisional allocation of places initial teacher training would end at 14 polytechnics and colleges in England. As a result, some of the institutions might well close. At others, some non-teacher training courses might also be discontinued. These changes will form part of the contraction of higher education already announced but will nevertheless be painful for the institutions concerned. Inevitably there will be considerable publicity and approaches to Members from institutions in their constituencies.

My Secretary of State is writing separately to H Committee colleagues about the redundancy implications of these changes and other reductions in the local authority teaching force. In the meantime my Secretary of State thought it desirable to warn you and copy recipients of the probable public reaction to the provisional figures for individual institutions.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the Lord President, the Chief Secretary, the Paymaster General and the Chief Whip.

Yours ever,
Imogen Wilde

MRS I WILDE
Private Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Dr C C Butler
Chairman
Advisory Committee on the Supply
and Education of Teachers
Elizabeth House
York Road
LONDON
SE1 7PH

26 July 1982

Dear Dr Butler,

1. You wrote to the Secretary of State for Wales and to me on 19 May, enclosing advice from the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers on the initial teacher training system. Nicholas Edwards and I are grateful for the care with which the Committee has examined the issues and the clarity with which you set out your conclusions.
2. We agree that the demand figures set out in your Table 1 provide a reasonable basis for planning the development of the initial training system. We also agree that there are unavoidable uncertainties in the projections, and that it will be important to monitor the position so that account can be taken of new data as they become available. This may be particularly important in the case of wastage rates or the extent to which vacancies are filled by new entrants and re-entrants respectively to the teaching profession. We therefore welcome your proposal to review the position in detail in two years' time.
3. We accept the Committee's recommendations for the growth of training for primary teaching, so far as their implications for entries to training in 1983, 1984 and 1985 are concerned. In our view the proposed distribution between BEd and PGCE courses, and between the university and publicly maintained sectors, is also acceptable, subject to satisfactory translation of the total figures into institutional terms. It is important that this task should be completed as soon as possible so that the institutions and providing bodies can develop their plans accordingly. The Departments will therefore now seek, in co-operation as appropriate with the UGC, the NAB, the providing bodies and the institutions themselves, to establish target figures for the intake to primary training courses in individual institutions for these three years. We hope that this task can be completed before the end of October.
4. The Committee's recommendations for secondary training provision have caused us more difficulty. We agree that the supply

of new teachers for secondary schools cannot be kept exactly in line with demand year by year for the reasons that the Committee has given. We nevertheless believe that it should follow demand more closely than the Committee envisaged, and that it can do so without depriving appointing bodies of the reasonable range of choice on which the Committee rightly laid stress. Taking into account the Government's overall plans for higher education, within which initial teacher training is encompassed, it would not in our view be right to allow the output of teachers substantially to exceed demand and teacher training, in consequence, to absorb an unduly large share of the total resources available for higher education.

5. We have considered separately the changes that should be made in provision for secondary BEd courses and secondary PGCE courses. We have concluded that, given present recruitment to PGCE courses and the need to strengthen subject expertise within the schools, it would be appropriate for a proportionately greater reduction to fall on BEd provision, and that the total intake to BEd and comparable undergraduate courses of academic and professional training in 1983, 1984 and 1985 should be limited to 1750 rather than the 2250 recommended by the Committee. This would represent a reduction of some 35% from the actual entry of 2750 in 1981. We recognise that this will in practice mean that secondary BEd provision will in the main be restricted to certain specific subject areas in which its contribution is especially important. The university provision of secondary BEd courses is small in scale, with an intake of about 250 in all; significant cuts can therefore be applied only in the public sector. We envisage that the public sector intake should be reduced to 1500.

6. In the case of secondary PGCE courses we consider that a 25% reduction in total planned intakes is needed, rather than, as proposed by the Committee, a continuation of the 20% reduction we decided last year should apply to the 1982 intake. We have considered how this reduction should be applied to the university and public sectors in the light of the Committee's observations on this point. Our conclusion is, bearing in mind the overall effects of the changes in both primary and secondary training in the two sectors, that the entry targets for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985 should be 4250 for the universities and 2650 for the public sector. As with primary intakes, our decision on these figures must be subject to their satisfactory translation into target figures for individual institutions. The Departments will also be setting this work in hand immediately, and again we hope that the task can be completed before the end of October.

It may be convenient to set out here, in tabular form, the target intake figures which result from these conclusions. They are:

		1983	1984	1985
Primary BEd	a.	250	250	250
	b.	4800	5600	5900
Primary PGCE	a.	400	500	600
	b.	1100	1300	1500
Secondary BEd	a.	250	250	250
	b.	1500	1500	1500

Secondary PGCE	a.	4250	4250	4250
	b.	2650	2650	2650
Total	a.	5150	5250	5350
	b.	10050	11050	11550
Total	a. + b.	15200	16300	16900
	(a)	Universities	(b)	Public Sector

8. We have studied with interest the possible illustrative increases in the scale of provision which the Committee has proposed on educational grounds for our consideration. We note that the Committee would give priority to increased provision for release for in-service training. As you will recognise these proposals raise wider issues in both educational and expenditure terms. Movement in this direction would not be precluded by our present decisions relating to the supply of teachers.

9. We have noted with interest, and welcome, the Committee's proposals for future work, though you will understand that I cannot give any guarantee in advance about the availability of resources to match whatever the Committee may advise. We believe it is too early to take a firm decision on the possibility, raised by the Committee in the light of the demand figures, of a planned net transfer of teachers from secondary teaching to primary teaching in the late 1980s. Nevertheless we should be glad if the Committee would include in its programme the more detailed work it has proposed on possible arrangements for such a transfer and if this work could include examination of possible refresher courses for re-entrants to primary teaching. We also consider it particularly timely for the Committee to prepare advice on ways in which initial training courses might be improved, and are glad to know that your work on this has in fact already begun. Advice on this subject early in 1983 could be of importance for those institutions planning new courses for that and subsequent years as a consequence of the new target figures for intakes to initial teacher training courses.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Joseph

5 AUG 1982

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Education
JL B

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 August 1982

Thank you for your letter of 5 August about initial teacher training, which the Prime Minister has seen and noted.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the Lord President, the Chief Secretary, the Paymaster General and the Chief Whip.

TIM FLESHER

Mrs Imogen Wilde,
Department of Education and Science.

JL

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PRIME MINISTER

Teacher Training Grants

for discussion in the Committee

The attached paper by Sir Keith Joseph proposes that the Department of Education and Science should grant aid in-service teacher training and the training of mature people as teachers of shortage subjects. The purpose of this initiative is to fill a gap in the teaching of subjects like mathematics (you will remember the report of the Cockcroft Committee), physical science, crafts, design and technology. He proposes to earmark some £3 m existing provision for 1983/84, but will press for this to be made good in the autumn decisions on the 1983/84 round.

23 July, 1982.