

Review of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) infrastructure in Northern Ireland

Terms of Reference

1. This assignment focuses on the need to examine the case for the reform of teacher education provision in Northern Ireland and whether the funding being provided could be used better by the teacher training institutions if they were prepared to move towards a more shared or integrated system.
2. An expert panel of international standing in the field of higher education has been appointed to conduct this review. A summary of the work expected of the panel is shown below.
3. The panel will:
 - a. Provide an overview of the most current developments in the field of initial teacher education provision which represents best practice internationally
 - b. Compare what is considered best international practice with the current provision in Northern Ireland. This will be done by:
 - inviting each of the ITE providers and other stakeholders to put forward papers outlining its vision of the structures necessary to create a world-class system of initial teacher education in Northern Ireland which also enhances and improves sharing and integration within the sector; and
 - conducting a series of in-depth interviews with each of the five ITE providers and relevant stakeholders.
 - c. Produce a paper which builds upon the ITE Stage 1 study and which draws on the views of the ITE providers and the stakeholders. This would involve an examination of the options/visions put forward by providers/stakeholders, critically assessed against international best practice as outlined above.

- d. Following engagement with ITE providers and stakeholders, produce a final report on the work carried out and set out for the Minister options for the future shape of initial teacher education infrastructure in Northern Ireland.
4. At the outset of the assignment, the panel will prepare an assignment action plan setting out the major elements of the work to be undertaken and to agree deadlines for their delivery.

Outcome

5. The final output from this assignment will be a report setting out for the Minister options for the future shape of initial teacher education infrastructure in Northern Ireland.
6. This will allow the Department to enter into further dialogue with the various institutions, with the intention of finding an agreed way forward.