

The Department of Education & Skills has written to the NCSE in the context of the Government's Employment Control Framework on public service numbers and the targets contained in relation to overall teacher numbers. In this regard, the Dept advises that the ongoing allocation of resource teaching hours in the 2010/11 school year, which in turn leads to the creation of whole time equivalent teaching posts, could, if the trend continues, cause a significant difficulty.

The DES has therefore requested the NCSE to pause sanctioning any additional resource teaching support hours until further notice, pending further consideration of the matter. In addition, the Department has requested that the NCSE does not advise schools of their proposed roll-over of resource teaching allocation for 2011/12 until further notice.

In considering this issue, the DES has requested some statistical information, which is currently being compiled and it is envisaged that the NCSE will meet with the Dept when the information has been submitted.

Finally, I wish to confirm that the NCSE, through its national network of SENOs will continue to process applications for additional resource teaching support hours for the 2011/12 school year. Decisions in relation to these applications will issue following clarification from the DES on the matter.

Sé Goulding
Head of Operations

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