

## **Main estimate features: education**

### **Capital**

- Capital allocation of €715m is being made available in 2010. In addition, €79m in capital savings from 2009 will be carried forward into 2010, bringing total capital funding available for education in 2010 to €794m.
- The total funding available is a decrease of less than 7pc compared to the allocation for 2009.
- €579m will be allocated to continue the significant investment being made in the school building programme. That includes €72m from the capital carry-over.
- Given the reduction in tender prices, it's expected that the Department will be able to deliver a similar-sized programme of large and small-scale building projects in primary and post-primary schools in 2010 as was delivered in 2009. As well as providing for all contractual commitments on existing projects, the building programme will include a further batch of major new school or extension projects to proceed to tender and construction during 2010. There will also be a Summer Works Scheme incorporating water conservation measures.
- €141m is being provided for infrastructural investment in higher education of which €46m will be provided for investment under the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation.
- €50m is being allocated to support the integration of information and communications technology in teaching and learning in schools. That includes €7m from the capital carry-over.
- Provision has also been made in the capital allocation for the continuation of the Department's public-private partnership programme.

### **Current**

- The current allocation for 2010 is €8.173bn which is a reduction of 5.4pc over the allocation for 2009. The reduction includes a general pay-related adjustment of €350m in line with the Government decision to reduce public service pay rates. This accounts for 4pc of the reduction. The distribution of this pay adjustment across subheads will be included in the context of the 2010 Revised Estimates Volume.

### **Additional expenditure measures**

- €12m is being provided in 2010 for the implementation of the Renewed Programme for Government commitment to provide 500 extra teachers over the next three years. This allocation will allow for the employment of an extra 200 teachers starting in early 2010 and a further 150 teachers starting in September 2010.
- €14m is being provided in 2010 for the implementation of the Renewed Programme for Government commitment to provide extra teachers from September 2010 for the 2010/11 school year to meet demographic pressures and to ensure no further increase in the pupil-teacher ratio. This allocation will fund 600 posts in primary schools and 330 posts in post-primary schools.
- €19m is being provided to maintain school capitation grants at current levels and to take account of increased pupil numbers. This allocation will also enable extra funding to be allocated to schools for school books and to support curricular activities as provided in the Renewed Programme for Government.
- The allocation for the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) is being increased by €7.5m to meet additional expenditure on allowances due to the change in profile of applicants for the scheme.
- An extra allocation of €3m is being provided for the promotion of Gaeilge in schools as part of the new 20-year Strategy for the Irish Language.
- The provision for the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) is being increased to provide for the rise in psychologists to 210. This will allow NEPS

psychologists to provide direct service to every first and second level school and an enhancement of service to special schools and units.

### **Higher education**

- The provision in 2010 for universities and institutes of technology is €1,266m - a 4pc reduction on the 2009 provision of €1,318m.
- The reduction in funding takes account of targeted reductions in numbers employed under an employment control framework for the sector. It will also involve further non-pay cost efficiencies.
- Just under €130m is being provided to higher education institutions in 2010 for research activities including capital research funding. This underlines the Government's commitment to focussed delivery of its Science, Technology and Innovation strategy. As part of this, it's intended that investments under Cycle 5 of the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions will proceed. The assessment process for PRTL 5 awards will conclude in early 2010 and, in line with normal lead-in times, major elements of expenditure commitments are anticipated to materialise from 2011 onwards.
- The funding available in 2010 for projects under the Strategic Innovation Fund is €18m - a reduction of €8m on 2009. This reduced allocation will require a further curtailment of project activity. Priority will continue to be given to projects aimed at upskilling and reskilling for employment.

### **Student grants and scholarships**

- A reduction of 5pc is being applied to the rates of student grants and scholarships. This will achieve €10m in savings in 2010. However, the overall allocation for student support will be increased in 2010 to take account of increased numbers of students.
- The reduction will be implemented to all existing and new grant-holders from January 2010. This is in line with reductions in other income maintenance payments including those for the unemployed.
- A further saving of €4m will be made by the removal of eligibility for student support grants from people in receipt of the Back to Education Allowance and the VTOS allowances for those pursuing a Post-Leaving Certificate course. However, the cost of the student service charge and any fees payable to colleges will continue to be met by the Exchequer on their behalf. This will apply to all new grant-holders in 2010 onwards.
- Support under the Millennium Partnership Fund is being withdrawn saving €2m.

### **Adult and further education**

- The number of places provided in Senior Traveller Training Centres (STTCs) will be reduced from 984 places to 684 places. This in line with the Traveller Education Strategy. Travellers can continue to access the full range of adult and further education programmes across the country.
- Allowances to participants in VTOS, Youthreach and STTCs will be reduced in line with the appropriate social welfare rates or FÁS trainee allowances.

### **Teacher education**

- The provision for teacher in-service education support is €29.79m compared with a 2009 estimate of €40m. Restructuring of existing services will continue in 2010. Services will be focused on priority areas including special educational needs, child protection guidelines training, implementation of new procedures for underperforming teachers, and Project Maths.
- The allocation for pre-service teacher education is being reduced by €3m and will be achieved by reducing the number of post-graduate conversion places.

### **Teacher sick leave and substitution**

- The supply teacher scheme at primary level will cease from the start of the 2010/11 school year. Normal substitution arrangements which apply to primary schools generally to cover teacher absences will be used to cover substitution in those schools that participated in the scheme.
- From the start of the 2010/11 school year, the maximum number of uncertified sick leave days allowed in the school year for teachers in primary, secondary and community and comprehensive schools will be reduced to seven days. This is the same number of days available for teachers in vocational schools and community colleges.

### **School transport**

The provision for school transport is €188m compared with a 2009 estimated out-turn of €178m. While efficiencies made during 2009 will continue to yield savings in 2010, an increase of €10m is being provided which includes provision for new services as necessary.

### **Reduction in allocations to education bodies**

- National Council for Curriculum and Assessment reduced by €0.93m;
- National Council for Special Education reduced by €2.3m;
- Higher Education Authority reduced by €0.562m;
- Dublin Dental Hospital reduced by €0.410m;
- Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies reduced by €0.546m;
- Royal Irish Academy of Music reduced by €0.303m;
- National Qualifications Framework (NQAI, FETAC, HETAC) current allocation reduced by €2.1m;

### **Other current**

- Further savings will be made from expenditure efficiencies in the Department's administrative budget (excluding NEPS) achieving €2.4m.
- The allocation of €5m funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund will allow for the continuation of existing schemes to counteract educational disadvantage funded from this source.
- Funding will be reduced by €1.2m in 2010 for projects in Local Drugs Task Force areas in Dublin city and county. Funding provided by the Department for these projects will be phased out in 2011.

ENDS