



TUI-08116-PM/BH

21st October, 2008.

TO: Second Level Branch Secretaries
Executive Committee (for information)

Education Cuts – Budget 2009

Dear Colleague,

I attach for your information a letter being issued today to all school representatives in the name of both myself and the President.

We are seeking your cooperation in regard to this matter. The intention is to collect the information centrally in this office and to provide the information to each branch once collected. We would then ask the branch to consider the holding of meetings to raise this matter, to meet with parents locally and to raise the matter in the local media. Further guides will be issued in regard to this matter in the near future.

Meanwhile your cooperation is sought by giving whatever encouragement or assistance is necessary to the schools within your area to acquire the necessary information should that be necessary.

We look forward to your cooperation in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Peter MacMenamin
General Secretary

Enc.



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21st October, 2008.

TO: All School Representatives

CC: Second Level Branch Secretaries

Executive Committee (for information)

Education Cuts – Budget 2009

Dear Colleague,

As part of an overall coordinated programme in association with the other teacher unions, parents groups and management bodies, TUI is seeking to find the maximum amount of information on the impact of the cuts announced in the recent Budget.

To this end, the attached documents set out in a clear manner the precise cuts as they affect second level schools staffed by TUI members. Also attached is a template which we would ask you to complete as fully as possible and as quickly as possible for return to this office. To assist in the completion of this form we would request that, where necessary, you seek the relevant information from the school principal. To this end we have met with the Principals and Deputy Principals Association and have asked for their cooperation in this regard which has been agreed.

The purpose of collating this information is to establish individual school profiles, county and VEC profiles and an overall national profile as to the potential harmful effects of these cuts. In this context, individual schools will not be named and absolute confidentiality in regard to the identity of any school will be absolutely respected.

It is the view of the Union, which has been expressed in the public domain on a number of occasions, that the cuts will

- seriously damage the education service of our young people,
- will increase class sizes,
- will decrease options available for students,
- will effect some career options of students and
- will affect the education opportunity of the most deprived.

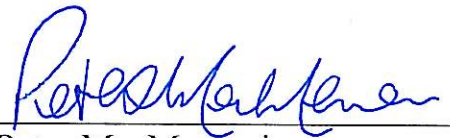
This is in complete contrast to statements of the Government, both prior to and in the Budget statement.

We seek your urgent cooperation in relation to this matter which is part of an ongoing campaign which TUI is totally committed to in opposition to the cuts.

Yours sincerely,



Don Ryan
President



Peter MacMenamin
General Secretary

Enc.

Impact of Budget Cuts 2008 – School Profile

Please be assured that the identity and confidentiality of each school will be preserved.

School Type (VEC, C&C)	
County/City	
School Name	
Contact Name (for clarification purposes)	
Contact Telephone No. and Email (for clarification purposes)	Phone No. Email.
DEIS Status	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher Numbers/Posts	Indicate number of teaching posts to be lost
Total number of students	
Loss of general teaching posts due to increased PTR <i>(divide number of students by 18, divide number of students by 19 and subtract)</i>	
Number of non-Irish national students (newcomers)	
Loss of language support teachers	
Non DEIS Status -	
Loss of Home School Community Liaison post/hours	
Loss of additional post/hours for disadvantage	
Withdrawal and Abolition of Specific Grants	Indicate value of grants to be lost
LCA (Leaving Certificate Applied) <i>(€159 per student per annum)</i>	
LCVP (Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme) <i>(once off start up grants - approx value of €6,348)</i>	
Transition Year <i>(€100 per student per annum)</i>	
JCSP (Junior Certificate Schools Programme *** <i>(see note 1 below)</i>) <i>(€63 per group, payable once in 3 years)</i>	

<i>Withdrawal and Abolition of specific grants (cont'd)</i>	<i>Indicate value of grant to be lost</i>
Physics and Chemistry (General) <i>***(see note 2 below)</i> Physics and Chemistry (Combined) <i>(€13 per student per annum)</i>	
Home Economics Ingredients grant <i>(€50 per senior class group/ €38 per junior class group per annum)</i> Equipment grant <i>(once off new and replacement grant related to school circumstances/size)</i>	
School book aid to non- DEIS schools	
Library grants or support from Local Authorities	
Reduction in capitation funding for Travellers <i>(current rate is €427 per student)</i>	
Grant for non-DEIS school in receipt of top-up funding under previous disadvantage initiatives	
School Transport	Indicate number of students affected and approximate value
€300 per student per annum up to max of €650 per family <i>((increase of €132 for junior cycle student, increase of €66 for senior cycle student)</i>	
Library Support from local Authority (if not covered under grants above)	Indicate approximate value of support
Other current costs e.g. 8% increase in examinations fees	Indicate number of student affected
Junior Cycle Students	
Senior Cycle Students	
<p>Teacher substitution arrangements - please outline expected impact on daily delivery of the withdrawal of substitution cover for uncertified sick leave and school business for example.</p> <p>Field Trips:</p> <p>Study Visits:</p> <p>Curricular Activity:</p>	

Non-Curricular Activity:

Unattended Classes:

Examinations Work:

Professional Development:

Other:

Please provide additional comments if desired:

*****Notes:**

1. Junior Certificate School Programme is a special programme of study offered to some groups of students in the Junior Cycle. The grant does not apply to the general Junior Cycle programme of study.
2. It is not clear yet whether all Physics and Chemistry subjects are affected. For the purposes of completing this template include all students taking all physics and chemistry options using €13 per student.

Please return by post or email to Sandra Howard (showard@tui.ie).

Thank you for taking the time to complete this template

Summary Notes Budget 2008

Main Estimate Features for Education

Teacher numbers/posts

- Pupil teacher ratio revised upwards from 18:1 to 19:1
- The ceiling of two on the number of language support teachers per school is being re-imposed (details of any alleviation schools where there is a significant concentration of newcomer pupils is not yet known)
- Withdrawal of teacher posts under previous disadvantage schemes to non-DEIS schools.

Withdrawal and Abolition of specific grants

- LCA - Leaving Certificate Applied
- LCVP - Leaving Certificate Applied Programme
- Transition Year
- JCSP - Junior Certificate Schools Programme
- Physics and Chemistry
- Home Economics
- School book aid to non - DEIS schools
- Library grants to local authorities to support school library services
- Reduction in capitation funding for Travellers
- Withdrawal of capitation funding for schools not in the DEIS programme but in receipt of top-up funding under previous disadvantage initiatives.

School Transport

- School transport charge to increase from an annual fee of €168 for junior cycle children and €234 for senior cycle children to a single annual fee of €300 (summer 2009)
- Maximum amount payable per single family, regardless of the number of children using the school transport system, will be €650 annually. Eligible children in families who hold a medical card or children with special needs are exempt from the charges.

Other Current

- Increase in examinations and certification fees – State Examinations Commission (SEC) by 8%; Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC); Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC).

Teacher Substitution Arrangements

- Substitution cover for absences arising from uncertified sick leave and school business.

Teacher Education

- Teacher in-service education support down by €5m (down to €28.8m from €33.8m)
- Reduction in teacher secondments to in-service and programmes that are not in an expansionary or prioritised phase curtailed.

Capital

- School capital budget down by €5m.

Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers

- Scheme is being suspended with immediate effect.

Higher Education

- The current estimates provision for higher education down by €43m (down to €1,844m from €1,887m). Increase in the student registration charge from €900 to up to €1,500
- Restrictions in the implementation of approved projects under the Strategic Innovation Fund
- Deferral of planned 2009 increases in medical education places
- Restrictions in the volume of awards made by the two Research Councils (Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology and Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences)
- No increases in student maintenance grants.

Adult and Further Education

- The non-pay grant provision for adult and further education will be reduced by 5% (approx half million) from €8.5m
- Reduction of 500 places on the Back to Education Initiative
- Reduction of 100 places provided in Senior Traveller Training Centres will be reduced by approximately 100.

Department's Regional Office Service

- A 26pc reduction - to rationalise and prioritise some services, seek efficiencies in the operation of the Department's regional office network.

Pre Budget Cutbacks

- 3% in payroll costs across Government organisations in 2009 and other restrictions to apply in order to seek cost savings in consultancy, advertising and other administrative areas
- Reduction in School Completion Programme
- Withdrawal of proposals for PLC sector for current year.

Rationalisation of bodies

- The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, HETAC and FETAC will be amalgamated.

At the end of the budget statement issued by Government on Tuesday 14th October this final sentence was added:

Government Warning: The estimates will require careful management, with expenditure control measures across all areas and possible further tightening measures may be necessary as the year progresses.