



The National Association of
School-Based Teacher Trainers

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“By every objective the ITT sector is performing exceptionally well” – NASBTT responds to report of market review

NASBTT has responded to a report of Department for Education (DfE) plans to progress its review of the Initial Teacher Training (ITT) market: <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/dfe-to-reboot-itt-market-review-to-slim-down-sector/>.

Executive Director Emma Hollis said: “The review of the ITT market was first detailed in January 2019 as part of the DfE’s launch of the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy so today’s ‘announcement’ is something we have been expecting and preparing for. We have contacted the DfE this morning to re-iterate our desired involvement in the review and our offer to provide as much insight as we can as part of the process.

Where we take immediate issue, however, is the unnamed quote attributed in the Schools Week story that the government is concerned that “too much of ITT is low quality and not rigorously tied to the evidence”. By every objective measure, the ITT sector is performing exceptionally well. Ofsted inspections have 99% of providers rated good or better. If the DfE does not trust Ofsted’s judgment in ITE, we would argue that this fundamentally undermines the validity of their own inspectorate across all remits.

Only last week, at the NASBTT annual conference, the DfE’s own officials publicly praised the ITT sector for its response to the Covid-19 pandemic and we are heartened by those strong messages of support for the work of our members. At the same conference we also witnessed numerous providers demonstrate the heart and soul they have put into developing carefully crafted, research-informed, contextually-relevant ITT curricula and mentor development programmes. ITT providers are very clearly meeting the requirements on quality, tied to evidence.

Every year, approximately 35,000 trainee teachers and their mentors must be trained. In order to achieve this, multiple ITT providers, of all shapes and sizes, are needed. We would therefore re-emphasise, at this stage, our support for smaller SCITTs as part of the reported review. Smaller providers very often serve a very specific need in cold-spots and rural/coastal communities. We know that historically, larger central providers do not manage to reach out to and service these areas, which is often why the smaller providers have emerged there in the first place.

Timing-wise, we feel the review does have the potential to undermine recruitment to the profession at an extremely sensitive moment in time. The ITT core content framework has only just been rolled out, as have the expectations under the new ITE inspection framework. Providers need time to embed and consolidate this before any further changes are thrust upon them. We await next steps in discussion with the DfE.”

-ENDS-

NASBTT is a registered charity committed to promoting high-quality schools-led programmes of training, education and professional development of teachers. NASBTT represents the interests of schools-led teacher training provision in relation to the development and implementation of national policy developments. Our members include SCITT providers, School Direct Lead Schools, Teaching Schools, HEIs as well as a range of other organisations involved in the education and professional development of teachers. We have over 200 members representing more than 10,000 individual trainees.

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