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MAGUIRE, MARY
Email: M.MAGUIRE



Oifig An Aire Oiliúint agus Scileanna
Office of the Minister for Training and Skills

Our Ref: MS 153/11
Your Ref: M13/0211

Ms Mary Maguire
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



15 April, 2011

Dear Ms Maguire,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the introduction of a € 200 Post Leaving Certificate programme (PLC) Participant Contribution and the number of PLC approved places allocated to County Dublin VEC.

I am aware that any reduction in funding or additional charges presents a challenge to individual learners as well as schools and VECs. However, this €200 per annum charge is modest and the cost will be met by the Exchequer on behalf of the following students

- Full medical card holders in their own right and their dependent children;
- Those who are eligible under the student grant scheme;
- Those in receipt of the Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) or Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) allowances.

It is estimated that approximately 50% of PLC learners are so eligible, thereby ensuring that those who are less well off continue to get the necessary supports to enable them to access education and training.

The number of places available under the Post Leaving Certificate programme currently stands at 31,688 and this will be maintained for the 2011/2012 academic year, despite the tough economic situation. The Department is currently not in a position to increase that number, or approve all the places sought. There is a continuing requirement to plan and control numbers, to manage expenditure and provide for future investment and growth, within the context of overall educational policy and provision.



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Officials in my Department are currently examining the applications received for the 2011/2012 PLC programme and allocations will be made in light of available places.

I hope that this clarifies the position for you.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cannon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ciaran Cannon, TD
Minister for Training and Skills