

# **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

## **GOVERNMENT OF MONTSERRAT**

### **SOFT MARKET TEST**

#### **1 OBJECTIVE**

**1.1**The objective of this market test is to seek information from relevant regional educational institutions which may be in a position to offer teacher training leading to an Associate Degree which is accredited by the East Caribbean Joint Board of Education (ECJBTE). The delivery of the services must take place within Montserrat on a part time basis using a multi-modal approach and the purpose is to ensure that our teachers have the training high quality teaching is delivered in every classroom every day to every student. This information will be used to help us to determine the best approach to obtain the required service which gives best value to us.

**1.2**To be clear, the students should not be required to leave the island and should continue to be available to their students during a normal work day.

#### **2 CONTEXT**

**2.1**Much of the expenditure by the Government of Montserrat both recurrent and capital is supported by the Government of the UK through its Department for International Development. The provision of that level of support is conditional on the local government meeting a plethora of challenging performance targets. The Ministry of Education is not exempted and its success is measured against several key performance indicators. One of those is the proportion of each cohort which passes 5 good CSEC subjects, including English and Mathematics each year. In the last 2 years that metric has been at 42% but it has been a steep climb from the 23% of 5 years ago. The year-on-year increases over that time span is an achievement worthy of note.

**1.1**This level of improvement if it is to be maintained requires investments in teacher training at the primary as well as the secondary levels.

- 1.2** Recently the Government entered into an arrangement with a regional institution to offer a post graduate degree in education to secondary level teachers who have a good first degree in a specific area but who were untrained as teachers. This initiative will increase the proportion of trained teachers at the secondary level to 84%.
- 1.3** There are 4 primary schools (2 public schools and 2 private schools) in Montserrat with a total pupil enrollment of about 477 pupils. Staff complement is approximately 31 teachers with only 2 being male.
- 1.4** The OECS Harmonized curriculum is the document which guides what is taught in the primary schools. All students transition to the lone secondary school at the end of Grade 6 where there are placed based in on their performance on the Caribbean Primary Exit Examinations (CPEA). Key stage assessments are done at Grade 3 and at Grade 5.

## **2 PROFILE**

- 2.1** Another indicator by which the Ministry's performance is judged is the proportion of teachers at the primary level which have received accredited teacher training. At the moment that proportion is in the region of 74% and this has held steady for a few years due to persons transitioning in and out. While as much as 40% of the teachers at secondary are of non-local origin, most of the teachers at primary are local.
- 2.2** Some 'teachers' have been in the school system for a few years and because of a combination of family commitments, the difficulty of accessing training funds, or matriculation issues, they have not been able to access training opportunities. There are a few who may have started as teaching assistants but over the years have developed their teaching skills through mentorship and other capacity development initiatives and some were eventually given responsibility for their own classes.

Table 1: DEPLOYMENT AND STATUS OF TEACHERS: PRIVATE VS PUBLIC; TRAINED VS UNTRAINED

NUMBER OF TEACHERS	PRIVATE/PUBLIC		STATUS	
	PUBLIC SCHOOLS	PRIVATE SCHOOLS	TRAINED	UNTRAINED
31	17	14	23	8

**2.3** There are about 8-10 teachers who require this training opportunity but only about half of them who may have the necessary academic qualifications to matriculate. Some of the remainder may be allowed to enter the program based on maturity and or experience.

**2.4** The principle which undergirds this project is that high quality teaching must be delivered in all of our classrooms every day in order to give each pupil the best chances of success on his learning journey. Good quality teaching is best assured when teachers are well trained, well supported and well led.

### **3 RESPONSES**

**3.1** The Ministry of Education, Montserrat appreciates your time in responding to this soft market test and responses will help us to determine the capacity within the market place to deliver the service within the strictures outlined about.

**3.2** Responses should be sent to

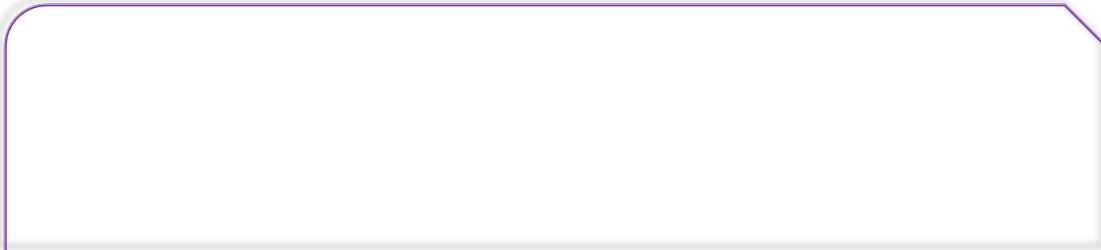
The Director of Education  
Government Headquarters  
Brades  
Montserrat  
Email: [francisg@gov.ms](mailto:francisg@gov.ms)  
Tel: 664 491 3209/2542/2541

**By February 24<sup>th</sup> 2017**

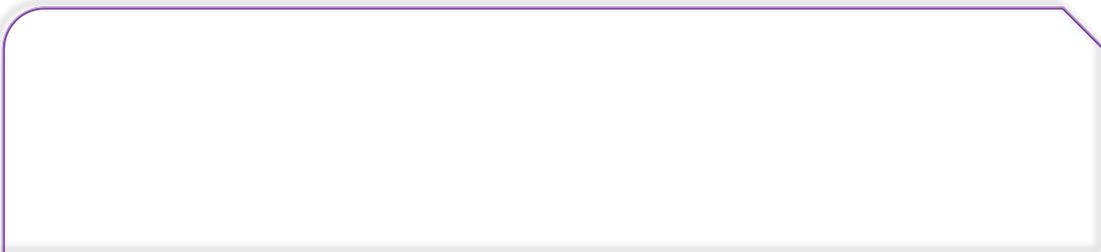
## **SOFT MARKET TEST QUESTIONS**

Kindly complete your responses to each question and forward the test sheet to the address given above.

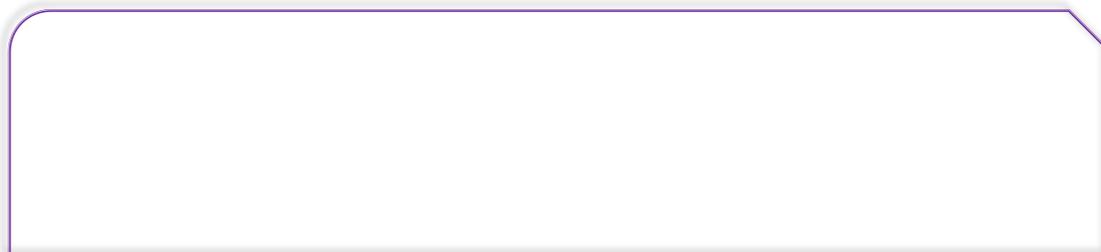
**1) Which mode/s would you use to deliver lectures to the students?**



**2) What is the extent of your experience using these various modes?**



**3) What time of day would our students be able to access lectures?**



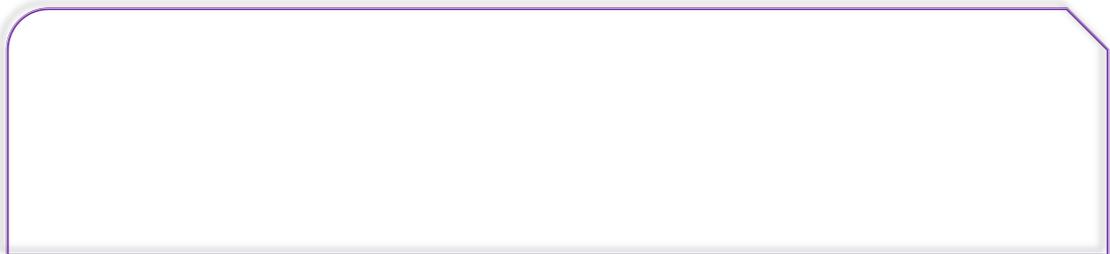
**4) Which courses would be mandatory courses and which would be electives?**



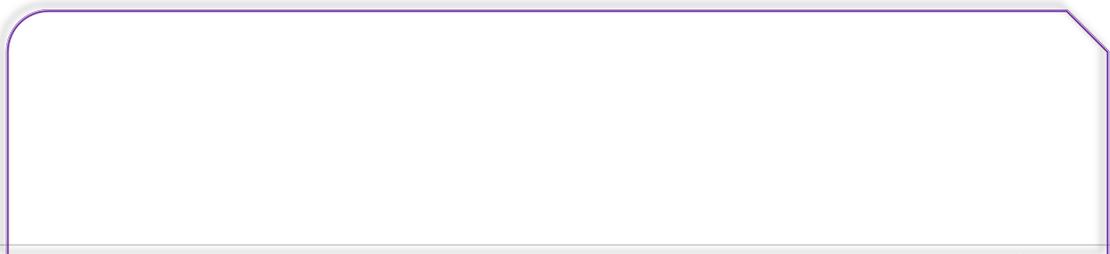
**5) Are you in a position to make '*ICT across the Curriculum*' a mandatory course?**



**6) How would you provide research resources to support the students?**



**7) What equipment (hardware/software) would the students need to have in order to access this training?**



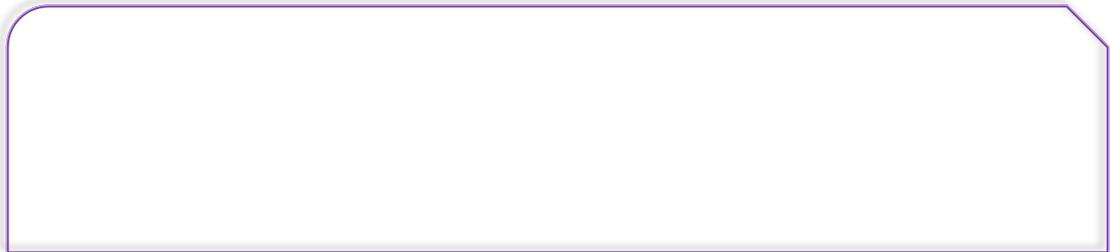
**8) Given that the program will be a part time one, what is the duration inclusive of the Teaching Practicum (TP) component?**

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a purple border, intended for the student's answer to question 8.

**9) What will be the arrangements for the conduct of the TP?**

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**10) What will be the arrangements for examining the students?**

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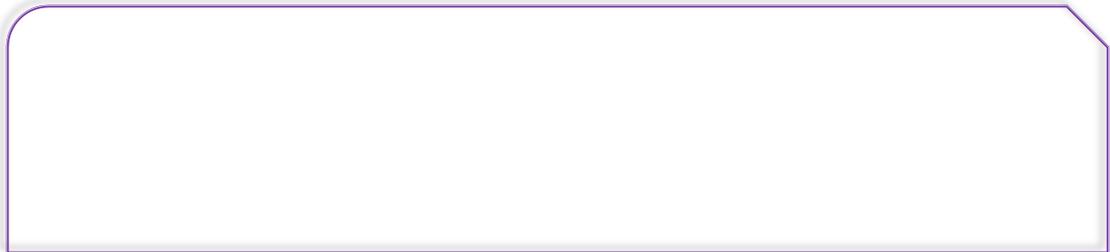
**11) What will be the arrangements for students who need to re-sit examinations?**



**12) What will be the arrangements for the graduation of the students?**



**13) What will be the approximate cost (per student) for delivering this program?**



Thank you very much for your kind cooperation!!

