

REPLY

(1) **With reference to Funza Lushaka bursaries, whether candidates are interviewed to assess their potential suitability for the teaching profession before being awarded a bursary; if not, (a) why not and (b) what screening takes place to assess aspirant teachers' suitability for the profession; if so, what are the relevant details;**

(1) (a) No. Funza Lushaka bursary holders are selected based on academic performance, to make selection competitive and source the highest caliber of students.

(b) To make sure that the Department recruits and award bursaries to students who are fit for the purpose, the Department together with its partners is developing mechanisms to identify and screen young people to be recruited into the teaching profession. Once the necessary consultation processes have been completed and the mechanisms are approved it will be introduced to mitigate this risk of attracting students who may not be suitable for the profession.

(2) **(a) how many bursaries were awarded, (b) how many such bursary holders have graduated and (c) how many graduates have entered the teaching profession in public schools in the (a) 2013 and (b) 2014 academic years;**

(2) (a) The Funza Lushaka bursary programme strives to fund 25% of the number of students registered for an initial teaching qualification. More than 23 000 students have been funded since the inception of the bursary programme in 2007. The number of bursaries awarded in 2013 has increased from 11 455 in 2012 to 14 512. The Department expects that 14 349 will be awarded during 2014.

(b) 21 145 Funza Lushaka bursary holders have graduated since the inception of the bursary programme.

(c) At the end 2013, a total of 3 683 bursars were expected to qualify and enter the teaching profession in public schools. In 2014, a total of 4 232 bursars are expected to qualify.

- (3) with reference to Funza Lushaka bursary holders, (a) what was the average length of study for each graduate towards achieving a (i) four-year Bachelor of Education (B Ed) degree, (ii) three-year bachelor's degree and (iii) one-year Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in the (aa) 2011, (bb) 2012 and (c) 2013 academic years and (b) what are the details of the bursary conditions applicable to extended length of study;

(3) (a) The information is currently not available.

(b) The Funza Lushaka Policy regulates the management of the Bursary Programme. In terms of the Funza Lushaka Policy, funding for an additional year of study (e.g. 5th year for B.Ed.) is not automatic, but it is considered on a case by case basis. In the case of PGCE students, they are funded for only one year unless in a case where they are doing their qualification over two years in which case one year of funding is divided into two to cater for the two years of study.

- (4) (a) how many bursaries were allocated for each targeted field of specialisation in each province in the (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010, (iv) 2011, (v) 2012, (vi) 2013 and (vii) 2014 academic years and (b) how many Funza Lushaka bursary holders graduated with (i) a B Ed degree in each of the targeted fields of specialisation and (ii) a Bachelor degree and a PGCE, with the degree majoring in the targeted fields of specialisation;

(4) (a) Funza Lushaka bursaries are awarded in identified priority areas including, scarce skill subjects and Phases. Bursaries are distributed per Higher Education Institution that admits students across provinces. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of bursaries for each targeted field of specialisation in each province.

(b) In 2013, 93.7% of bursaries were awarded to B.Ed students; 3% of bursaries were awarded to other undergraduate degrees such as BSc, BA or BCom and 3.3% of bursaries were awarded for the PGCE. The following table provides a breakdown of the number of graduates with BEd and PGCE from 2010 to 2014:

Year	BEd	PGCE
2010	9 182	351
2011	7 867	174
2012	10 939	318
2013	13 166	433
2014	13 297	396

(5) whether a student forfeits the bursary if he/she changes his/her course of study; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that students graduate with the qualification to teach the subject(s) or phase for which the bursary was originally awarded?

(5) (a) A student that changes the course of study they have been awarded the bursary for is in breach of contract. As a result, the student will forfeit the bursary and will have to repay what has already been paid in the form of a loan, which the student has to repay with interest.

(b) The Implementation Protocol of the Funza Lushaka bursary programme requires that Higher Education Institutions monitor both the students' academic progress and continued registration within the areas they were initially selected for.