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Circular 1991/34

To: Education and Library Boards
Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
Principals and Boards of Governors of all
Controlled, Maintained and Voluntary
Schools and Principals and Governing
Bodies of Institutions of Further Education

August 1991

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF PREMATURELY RETIRED TEACHERS

1. The Department continues to be concerned about the high level of re-employment of teachers who have retired prematurely, particularly those who have received compensation. During each of the past 2 school years over 40% of teachers who retired prematurely within that period have been re-employed. The Northern Ireland Audit Office has also drawn the Department's attention to this matter.
2. Boards of Governors, governing bodies and employing authorities are again urged to give preference to newly qualified unemployed teachers and to experienced non-retired teachers who are seeking employment. Relevant considerations include the likely level of motivation of such teachers and the desirability of deriving benefit from the investment of public funds involved in teacher training. The Department considers that prematurely retired teachers should be re-employed only in exceptional circumstances and for short periods and it will continue to monitor the incidence of such re-employment with a view to considering whether more specific steps are necessary to reduce it.

S QUINN
Assistant Secretary