



**Cónaidhm Éireannach na Múinteoirí Ollscoile
Irish Federation of University Teachers**

MEDIA RELEASE

**HEA Framework details vindicate third-level staff
contribution and flexibility**

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The Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) has given a guarded welcome to the revised Employment Control Framework (ECF) for the Higher Education Sector, published by the Higher Education Authority today. According to IFUT, it acknowledges the major flexibility and sacrifices from third-level staff in recent years.

“Among the findings of the HEA are that staffing levels in third-level have declined by almost 1500 since 2009 while student numbers have increased by 15% in the same period,” IFUT General Secretary, Mike Jennings, said.

“In addition, remaining staff have taken very considerable wage cuts of approximately 20%, meaning that productivity and flexibility are now at the maximum level achievable, with €80 million annual savings from staff reductions alone.”

It should be noted that of around 3300 planned annual public sector staff cuts, almost half have been achieved in the third-level sector alone, Mike Jennings said.

“Any further cuts will threaten the viability and status of Irish third-level education, as confirmed by the HEA and mirrored in a recent ECOFIN report, which states that, considering their size, Finland, Ireland and Sweden are the countries with more universities pointed out by peers as being excellent,” Mike Jennings says.

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