

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET BY
THE HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Allowances to Teachers College Trainees

The Malta Union of Teachers are requesting that the allowance of £18 which is now being paid to Trainees at the Training Colleges be substantially increased.

2. They contend that the present allowance is extremely low. They refer to the hardship of those trainees who have been in receipt of a salary as Emergency Teachers for several years and who find themselves deprived of any remuneration while they are at College.

3. Attention has also been drawn to what they consider to be the inadequate allowance paid to married trainees and trainees with dependants. Again they contend that the present allowance introduces an element of real hardship, since for two long years the trainee's family have to subsist on a grant which amounts to less than half the salary of an Emergency Teacher.

4. The Malta Union of Teachers also indicate that the Electoral Programme of the Nationalist Party contained a specific promise that the financial conditions of trainees would be ameliorated.

5. At the instance of the Hon. Minister of Education, the whole question was on more than one occasion discussed by a small committee made up of representatives of the Malta Union of Teachers and of the following Government Departments: Establishments, Finance and Education.

6. As a result of these discussions, the official side of the committee have submitted the following recommendations to Hon. Minister of Education for subsequent submission to Government, subject to the concurrence of the Hon. Minister of Finance:-

- (a) That the allowance be raised to £36 in respect of all trainees.

(b) That married trainees and trainees eligible for a dependants' allowance be allowed to retain the minimum salary payable to Emergency Teachers. This applies only to Ex-Emergency Teachers.

(c) That consideration be given to the setting up at a later date of a special Training Course to be taken by Emergency Teachers in the evening. Such trainees would be in receipt of their usual salaries for their normal work during the day.

7. The following are some of the considerations which swayed the opinion of the official side in favour of an increase of the allowance:-

(a) As trainees are in residence, they are necessarily precluded from engaging in private work.

(b) Trainees have to incur considerable expense, to provide themselves with an outfit of clothing as required by the College authorities. This is still more considerable in the case of women.

8. The cost of the proposed increase of allowance is estimated approximately as follows:

(i) Increase from £18 to £36	£6,480 p.a.
(ii) Allowances to ex-Emergency Teacher breadwinners	<u>£2,000 p.a.</u>
	Say,	<u>£8,500 p.a.</u>

9. Finance were able to agree to this extra expenditure as it could be met out of savings under the general Education votes.

10. Hon. Ministers are requested to state whether they agree with the adjustments proposed in these allowances for trainees at the Teachers' Training Colleges.

14th September, 1965. _____