

2018 Chaplaincy Services Review

Following the survey of chaplaincy services in 2015, the HEA wrote to all HEIs (on 21 July 2016), requesting that institutions:

- ✓ Ensure value-for-money for any expenditure on chaplaincy services and regularly monitor and evaluate the use, value and impact of these services from a student perspective.
- ✓ Ensure that chaplaincy and other support services are available to students of all faiths in keeping with their responsibilities under the Irish Constitution and that the use of lay chaplains could be considered as a means to address that.
- ✓ Ensure that there is no discrimination between the appointment of lay and clerical chaplains.
- ✓ Ensure that public-sector appointment criteria and procurement guidelines are followed in the process of providing chaplaincy services.
- ✓ Address any with 'legacy' arrangements in place which did not involve a formal process of appointment or procurement in line with public-sector rules or guidelines should seek to do so as a matter of priority within the next 12 months.
- ✓ Ensure that there are robust agreements or contracts in place with chaplaincy services that clearly set out their services and responsibilities to the entire student base and accountability arrangements for delivering on this remit.

It was stated that the HEA would monitor ongoing implementation in this regard and would request an update from each HEI in due course. Therefore, we now invite you to complete the table overleaf.

Please submit this information to grantpayments@hea.ie no later than close of business on Friday 13th April 2018.

Survey of Chaplaincy Services (2018 Update)

Institution: <i>Institute of Technology Tallaght</i>	Response
<p>a) Current arrangements for chaplaincy services in the institution</p>	<p>The service is currently operated on a contract for services basis and procured via public competitive tender processes. The current chaplain's post is provided by The Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin, appointed in 2016.</p> <p>The Chaplaincy Service in IT Tallaght is one of a range of services designed to support students during their transition to, and progress through third level. The service is assisting the Institute as it faces the challenge of ever increasing diversity across the campus. This is of particular significance as the college works towards Technological University designation. The Chaplaincy Service works closely with the Chaplaincy Services of our partner institutes, namely DIT and IT Blanchardstown.</p> <p>The Chaplaincy Service organises a range of events and supports for students throughout the academic year. These include support for the organisation and delivery of orientation for new students; pastoral care for all students, with a particular focus on the well-being of international students as they settle into a new country and culture; assistance with accessing financial support where necessary; and bereavement support, for an individual student and for a cohort who may be affected by the death of a fellow student or loved one.</p> <p>The Chaplain is involved in promoting Volunteering to all students and staff and helps integrate civic and personal skills in the experience of Third Level Education</p> <p>The Chaplaincy Service is there to support students of all faiths and none. The Chaplain liaises with representatives of other faiths to ensure that students' spiritual needs are catered for on campus. For example, the Chaplaincy Service looks after the Quiet Room and manages the Multi-faith prayer room that is used extensively by students of the Muslim</p>

	<p>faith. The Quiet Room is also used for Meditation sessions and have been used by Buddhist group/ Bible Groups. An Inter-Faith Day is held to showcase different belief systems and encourage students to engage with diversity.</p>
<p>b) Number of Chaplains engaged/employed in the institution</p>	<p>There is currently 1 FTE lay chaplain for the service engaged by the Institute on a contract for services basis. She is Roman Catholic.</p>
<p>c) Costs attached to the provision of chaplaincy services for the 2016/17 academic year (or other available information)</p>	<p>The cost of operating Chaplaincy in 2016-17 was €55,000 and was paid to the Catholic Archdiocese for the provision of services.</p>
<p>d) Source of Funding for posts (details to be broken down by denomination)</p>	<p>The contract for services costs are covered from the Student Capitation Funds.</p>
<p>Progress in Implementing Recommendations arising from 2015 Review of Chaplaincy Services in the HE Sector</p>	
<p>1. Describe how the institution ensures value-for-money for any expenditure on chaplaincy services and monitors and evaluates the use, value and impact of these services from a student perspective.</p>	<p>A stated objective of the Institute in opting for the tender process is to obtain best value for money.</p>
<p>2. Outline how the institution ensures that chaplaincy and other support services are available to students of all faiths in keeping with responsibilities under the Irish Constitution, including consideration of the use of lay chaplains.</p>	<p>The Chaplain in IT Tallaght is a lay person, non-ordained. The Service makes itself available to students and staff of all faiths and none and is advertised as such and includes a logo on this theme. The Chaplaincy has been involved with the Dublin City Interfaith Forum over the past few years and this is one avenue to promote greater understanding and mutual respect between people from different religious/faith traditions and between people with religious affiliations and people with no religious beliefs.</p> <p>The tender process outlined how the chaplaincy service is available to all students regardless of their belief or cultural background.</p>
<p>3. Confirm that the institution ensures that there is no discrimination between the appointment of lay and</p>	<p>Confirmed. The procurement process outlined the specific skills and abilities required for staff, which could be fulfilled by either lay or clerical</p>

clerical chaplains.	chaplains.
4. Detail how public-sector appointment criteria and procurement guidelines are followed in the process of providing chaplaincy services.	The Institute employs Chaplains or procures the service, via a public procurement process. The current chaplain was appointed in 2016 through this process.
5. Note any 'legacy' arrangements that did not involve a formal process of appointment or procurement in line with public-sector rules that have been rectified since 2015.	<p>The current Chaplaincy Service is obtained on a Contract for Services basis. That contract will cease upon the completion of the current tendering process.</p> <p>No legacy issues arise.</p>
6. Set out how the agreements or contracts in place ensure that the requirements of the service are delivered with adequate accountability arrangements.	<p>The tender document sets out clear standards and requirements for the service and monitoring arrangements. The service requirements document states clearly that the Institute is taking a strategic approach to procurement and provision of the Service, in addition to securing savings, the procurement will be supporting other Government polices including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • value for money and price transparency, • active management, and • effective management of provision. <p>All procured service contracts are subject to oversight by the institute Finance Office, and are subjected to in internal and other audit processes as normal.</p> <p>The IT Tallaght Chaplaincy Service has taken part in the TU4D Review and has been involved in drawing up recommendations of the future of Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy within the new context of a Technological University.</p>
7. Provide any other comments/observations in relation to the role of the Chaplain(s) in the institution.	<p>The research carried out on the DIT Chaplaincy Service and including the IT Tallaght Chaplaincy service provided a very useful overview and insight into the pastoral care work of the Service, and the views of staff, students and stakeholders on work and value of the service. Due to budgetary constraints the review did not include staff and students of IT Tallaght.</p>

	<p>However the work of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care as carried out on site had similar outcomes found in the DIT Chaplaincy Review.</p> <p>The review identified that the Chaplaincy Service was making a positive contribution to the aims and objectives of the Institute through its work which assisted retention and progression of students. This report was primarily based on qualitative research.</p> <p>In IT Tallaght Student Feedback is ensured through student process groups.</p> <p>The Chaplain reports to the Registrar and is part of Student Support Service Team. An annual report is produced by the Chaplain.</p> <p>The Chaplain has been involved with the TU4D process and under various reports for the future amalgamation of the colleges has been appraised by the TU4D offices for value for money etc.</p> <p>The IT Tallaght Institute is currently preparing for a Review and a systematic evaluation of its operations and services. The Chaplaincy Service is part of this overall process.</p>
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