Circular Letter 0029/2011

To Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of VECs and
Boards of Management/Authorities of Voluntary Secondary Schools and Community and Comprehensive Schools

Request for submissions for additional Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) places

As part of the recently announced Government’s Job Initiative, provision has been made to increase the number of approved Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) places by 1,000 for the 2011/2012 academic year.

VECs, voluntary secondary and community and comprehensive schools are hereby invited to forward submissions applying for additional approved places for the 2011/2012 academic year. Submissions should:

• Identify the number of additional places sought and the courses to which the additional places would be allocated;
• Meet the requirements of the Post Leaving Certificate Programme 2011/2012 Conditions of Approval;
• Have regard to the National Skills Strategy;
• Have regard to the progression opportunities (employment, further education, higher education) that successful completion of the course will provide to participants.

Providers should note that these places are specifically targeted at the unemployed.

All applications will be dealt with equitably and on their own merits. In considering applications, the Department will also have regard to the following factors:

• Current and previous demand from individual providers
• Current and previous uptake (enrolment trends)
• Current allocations to individual providers
• The overall number of places available

Applications should be sent by e-mail only to plc@education.gov.ie by 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 24 May 2011.

Any queries should be addressed by e-mail to plc@education.gov.ie or by telephone to 090 648 4258/090 648 4257.

Seamus Hempenstall
Principal Officer