**BALEAP Testing Officer Report AGM 2020**

***Actions from last 12 Months (April 2019 – March 2020)***

Since the Leeds AGM the following activities have taken place

**04/06/19**

 A Language Testing Roadshow workshop at the Applied Language Centre, University College Dublin (UCD). This was organised by Jessica Garska, a PhD student at Trinity Dublin and was enthusiastically and well-attended.

**05/06/19**

A Language Testing Roadshow event at Cork University organised by Julie Butters. Again the enthusiasm and interest shown by the participants at this event was gratifying and both events held on behalf of EAP Ireland, whose representatives contacted me during the Leeds Biennial Conference, should help to cement the strong relationship being established between BALEAP and EAP Ireland.

**21/10/19**

I was contacted by Dr Emma Young, from the University of Bradford (BASALT), requesting that I review their language testing system in preparation for a potential UKVI audit. I was sent a substantial body of materials including test papers, marking descriptors, test specifications and examples of their listening recordings. I subsequently spent a day at BASALT in consultation with Dr Young and her colleagues. They are now creating a new suite of language tests which I will shortly be reviewing.

**12-14/11/19**

I was invited to be a member of a 4-person Quality Review Group for the Applied Language Centre, UCD led by Professor Gerard Fealy (UCD School of Nursing). This was an extensive activity over 3 full days covering the EAP unit and the various other language teaching and testing activities taking place. I submitted a full report based on my observations to supplement those of my 3 co-panel members during the visit. This invitation came as a direct result of the developing BALEAP and EAP Ireland relationship.

**February/March 2020**

The BALEAP testing guidelines have been fully revised and extended. These are replacing the existing document, which was completed more than 10 years ago. Subsequent to the original guidelines, the UKVI revised regulations have been implemented which has had a significant impact on the need for a revised edition of the guidelines. New formats to some of the Secure English Language Tests (SELTs) have been included in the revised edition and coverage of the Trinity Integrated Skills of English (Trinity ISE) has been added. The revised edition is several pages longer than the original document and is intended to be considered as a work in progress with new added information about, for example, bespoke tests created by individual HE institutions being included at the request of the relevant body. For this reason, there is a detailed description of the Test of English for Education (TEEP) developed by the Assessment Unit at the University of Reading over the past 20+ years which is intended to act as a template for the level of detail required if further similar level tests are to be added.

With the increasing need for valid and reliable online language testing , in particular with the current COVID19 crisis as a motivator for immediate and future developments, it is also anticipated that information and recommendations in this area will also be included in this working document guidelines as more information arises.

**January/March 2020**

As anticipated in the minutes of the Leeds AGM , a Testing and Feedback SIG has been set up. The co-convenors are Fiona Orel (University of Reading) and Rob Playfair (Liverpool University). An introductory webinar was due to take place on 23/03/20.

**Report submitted by Prof John Slaght (BALEAP Testing Officer)**