

22 February 2012

Dear colleague,

The Welsh Government is currently consulting on proposals for extending registration to a wider group of education professionals.

(<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/regeducationworkforce/?lang=en>)

The Welsh Government is proposing:

- that the scope of registration should be extended to include school learning support staff, FE lecturers and the work-based learning workforce;
- that the functions of the registration body should be broadened to establish and monitor standards such as, setting CPD requirements, setting professional standards and approving initial teacher training courses;
- that registrants should pay a registration fee which could be differentiated;
- to either reconstitute the GTCW or establish a new education registration body to be overseen by the profession, either through a single council or separate sector councils;
- to consider whether greater coherence between sectoral workforce requirements would support improved standards.

We set out below the government's consultation questions and summarise the response that the GTCW will be submitting. We hope you will find this informative in formulating your response.

Q1 *Do you agree that registration should be extended beyond school teachers to the wider education workforce in Wales, to include school learning support staff, further education lecturers and the work-based learning workforce?*

GTCW believes the teaching profession should have an interest in the regulation of all those who play a role in maintaining its standards. We support registration being extended to now over 16,000 school learning support staff in order to raise their status; to FE lecturers for reasons of learner equity in college/school partnerships and to provide lecturers with the benefits of belonging to an independent professional body; to instructors in schools and to teachers in independent schools. GTCW supports the registration of the work-based learning workforce after the above.

Q 2 *Do you think that any other members of the education workforce, for example youth workers, play workers and other school staff, should be registered?*

GTCW believes that it would be inappropriate to require youth workers, play workers or school support staff whose principal role does not involve teaching & learning, to be registered with the professional body for teaching.

Q 3 *Do you agree that the functions of a registration body in Wales should include checks that individuals are appropriately qualified and fit to practise and a disciplinary function leading to potential barring of individuals who are deemed unfit?*

GTCW agrees that suitability and disciplinary responsibilities are core functions of a professional regulatory body. The GTCW has over ten years experience in this area of work.

Q 4 *Do you agree that decisions about functions such as discipline and professional competence should be made independent of government?*

The GTCW agrees strongly that it is the role of the professional regulatory body, rather than government, to uphold the profession's standards of competence and conduct.

Q 5 Do you agree that wide functions should be added on a phased basis into the work of the new reconstituted registration body? These could include approval of initial training courses, requirements for continuing professional development and setting of professional standards.

In keeping with other professional bodies for teaching and most other professions, GTCW agrees that the registration body should:

- be the guardian and owner of professional standards;
- approve initial teacher education courses as being professionally appropriate;
- set requirements for teachers' CPD and quality assure CPD provision.

Q 6 Are there any other specific functions you think that the new or reconstituted registration body should undertake?

The GTCW believes the professional body should retain an advisory function on relevant professional issues e.g. teacher supply and demand, standards, initial & continuing professional development and recruitment & retention.

The GTCW also supports government retaining an option to invite the professional body to carry out operational responsibilities e.g. in the area of professional development.

Q 7 Do you think that a single professional council, with a membership with expertise across the wider education workforce, is the best way to secure appropriate professional expertise for the new or reconstituted registration body, or would a series of sector councils each specialising in a specific area of workforce be more appropriate?

The GTCW supports a single professional council with membership and expertise from the wider education workforce. We do not think that separate sector councils each specialising in a specific area of the workforce would promote coherence.

The GTCW believes strongly that by far the most practical and cost-effective approach to a single professional council is to reconstitute the GTCW, extending its functions and expanding its scope, rather than creating a new registration body.

Q 8 Do you think that there should be a flat-rate fee for registration payable by all those registered or should differentiated fee rates apply?

The GTCW supports the principle of professionals paying for their professional bodies as this ensures their independence. The Council agrees that fee levels would need to be appropriate to different groups of registrants.

Q 9 Do you think that greater clarity and coherence in requirements for matters such as qualifications, professional standards, performance management and professional development could support our drive to improve standards and flexibility across the wider workforce?

The GTCW agrees that greater clarity and coherence in requirements across the education workforce would be beneficial and reiterates that a single council rather than separate sector councils would help ensure coherence.

You may read the Council's full response at www.gtcw.org.uk . **We urge you to respond to this important consultation by 30 March 2012** at practicereviewanddevelopment@wales.gsi.gov.uk (subject 'Registration consultation').

Yours sincerely,



Angela Jardine
Chairperson



Gary Brace
Chief Executive