



Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL Cymru's) Response the General Teaching Council for Wales Consultation on Registration Rules

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers represents over 160,000 education professionals across the four constituent parts of the United Kingdom. It draws its membership from teachers and lecturers, leaders and support staff in maintained and independent schools, and Further Education Colleges. As well as campaigning vigorously to protect and enhance members' pay and conditions ATL also believes that the education profession has a key role in developing education strategy and policy. ATL Cymru represents over 6,500 education professionals in colleges and schools across the whole of Wales.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree that there is a benefit in introducing Registration Rules for the reasons set out in Section 2 of the consultation document?

We agree

2. What revisions, if any, might be made to the draft Registration Rules?

The current requirement for teachers to provide a CRB check to the GTCW before they can be registered (4 (1) d and passim) is otiose. Teachers need an enhanced CRB for their employer's benefit, for any agency they work with/for and for each new post and these are renewed every three years. The advent of the ISA also means that such a CRB check is redundant, see 10 (1) h. The GTCW should endeavour to ensure that its requirements are in accord with this new body. We suggest these changes for three reasons. Firstly, the limited scope of the CRB check means that this rightly located with employers' responsibilities – it is of very questionable value to a professional body such as the GTCW. Secondly, the requirement for a CRB check for registration involves some teachers in unnecessary expenditure. Thirdly, there is a lack of fit with the approach of the GTCE who do not require a CRB check for registration. This has lead to considerable unnecessary hardship for some teachers who cross the border to teach in Wales.

In addition we note that any investigation finding a registered teacher guilty of a relevant offence has to inform the GTCW as do employers who are aware of criminal proceedings. The GTCW therefore do not need a CRB check, as they would be informed of any problems in any case.

3. Do you have any other comments?

We would like it noted that the increase in the fee for registration, which teachers now have to fund from their own salaries, was very unwelcome and has severely damaged the standing of the Council in the eyes of many teachers. We are of the opinion that professional fees should be met by employers. We regret that the fee increase was presented as a fait accompli with no attempt to engage teachers or their representatives in ensuring the functioning of the Council in a way that also maintained its standing.

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