



**Election and Appointments Processes
ATL Scotland's response to the
GTC Scotland consultation document
10 January 2011**

ATL, the education union

ATL, as a leading education union, recognises the link between education policy and our members' conditions of employment. Our evidence-based policy making enables us to campaign and negotiate from a position of strength. We champion good practice and achieve better working lives for our members. We help our members, as their careers develop, through first-rate research, advice, information and legal support. Our 160,000 members – teachers, lecturers, headteachers, support staff and students – are empowered to get active locally and nationally.

ATL is affiliated to the Trades Union Congress (TUC), Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) and Education International (EI). The union is a member of the Social Partnership – working with the UK Government, employers and other unions on education issues. ATL is not affiliated to any political party and seeks to work constructively with all the main political parties.

Introduction

ATL welcomes the opportunity to comment on the consultation on Election and Appointment Processes for a future independent General Teaching Council of Scotland. We are pleased that some of our recommendations contained within the consultation response to *Towards an independent general teaching council: a consultation of the future status of the GTCS* have been adopted for the operation of the new Council.

Section 1 - Categories of elected member

Q1. Should the pre-school/non-school category be discontinued?

No

ATL believes that despite the challenges faced in filling this seat it is worth retaining. The new Council can use the opportunity of its new status to attract potential candidates. If the seat is still not filled by the end of its first term then that would seem a sensible juncture at which the Council should review whether or not the category should be continued.

Q2. Do you agree that we should retain these existing election categories:- Primary/Nursery – Secondary – Further Education – Universities providing courses of Initial Teacher Education?

Yes

We believe that unless there are significant changes to the current arrangements for teacher training announced as part of the *Donaldson Review of Teacher Education* then these categories should be retained.

Section 2 – Level and nature of representation

Q3. Do you agree with the proposed allocation of seats to election categories?

Yes

ATL called for a smaller Council in its consultation response to *Towards an independent general teaching council: a consultation of the future status of the GTCS*. We acknowledge that the reduction in Council seats means a reduction in the number of seats available to the various categories.

Section 3 – Election Scheme Rules

Offer comments

We are content with the Election Scheme as set out in the draft document. We are also content with the Election Policy as set out in the draft document.

Section 4 – Appointments

Do you agree that an independent Appointments Committee should be responsible for appointing (i) public interest Council members and (ii) panel members?

Yes

We are content with the arrangements as set out in the draft document.

Do you agree that membership of the Appointments Committee should include a registered teacher and an “external independent representative”?

Yes

Do you agree with the model of appointing the Appointments Committee’s “external independent representative”, as set out in the draft Appointments Scheme?

Yes

Do you agree with the eligibility criteria that would apply to anyone being considered for appointment, as set out in the Appointments Scheme?

Yes

Do you agree with the principles that will overarch the appointments process, as set out in the draft Appointments Scheme?

Yes

Section 6 – Equality and Diversity

We are committed to promoting and developing equality and diversity in all our work. We are therefore keen to know whether you think that any of the proposals in our consultation present any barriers(s) to election, appointment or serving as a Council member or appointment as a Panel member.

No