



**Registration and Standards Rule Framework  
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 Registration and Standards Rules Framework for a future independent General Teaching Council of Scotland.

**Do you have any general comments on the terminology used within the rules or Statement of Principles?**

Yes

ATL welcomes the clarity contained within the rules and Statement of Principles.

**Do you have any suggestions on how we could improve the format or accessibility of the rules or Statement of Principles?**

No

**Do you have any comments on the criteria for registration and re-registration that are set out in the rules and Statement of Principles?**

No

**Do you have any comments on the criteria for award of the Standard for Chartered Teacher, the Standard for Headship or Professional Recognition set out in the rules?**

No

**Do you think that the proposed panel procedures covering registration and standards related cases, as set out on the rules, are clear and fair? If not, please provide your comments and any recommendations on changes that you think should be made.**

Yes

**We have proposed that panels would continue to hear registration and standards cases are held in private (unless the teacher/applicant concerned asks for a case to be held in public). Do you agree with this approach? If not, then please tell us why you think the cases should be heard in public.**

Yes

**The rules cover the cancellation of provisional registration. If the provisional registration of a probationer is cancelled because it has been determined (via a hearings process) that they are unlikely to meet the standard for full registration, how long do you think that the teacher should be prohibited from applying to have his/her provisional registration restored? At present, a person needs to wait three years.**

2 years

We agree that there should be an appropriate period between cancellation of registration and re-application. This period should offer the opportunity for reflection on behalf of the probationer as to their future career as well as the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the profession through relevant further experience. We believe that two years rather than three years is an appropriate period to if the knowledge gained during the probation year is not lost or made redundant with the ever increasing pace of change in the Scottish education sector.

**The rules set out that where a teacher has lapsed from the register, the teacher may be reinstated to the register in the public interest if a complaint is subsequently received about his/her actions when they were a registered teacher. It is proposed that reinstatement may only take place within two years of the date of removal from the register. Do you agree with this proposal? If not, please tell us why and if you have any suggested changes, please tell us about them.**

Yes

**Do you have any other comments that you would like to make?**

No