THE GENERAL
TEACHING COUNCIL
FOR SCOTLAND

**Item 14**

**GTC Scotland proposes changes to teacher Registration Rules to further safeguard quality of education**

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Dear Colleague

**College Lecturer Registration with GTC Scotland**

Following a successful piloting of college lecturer professional registration between November 2020 and March 2021, a national roll out of registration has begun. From 6 September 2021 all college lecturers with a TQFE or primary or secondary teaching qualification and 190 days of teaching service are invited to join the register of teachers in the category of teacher of further education.

This is in line with GTC Scotland's legislative framework and current Registration Rules. A review of these Registration Rules has been underway to support broader college lecturer registration.

In March 2018 Colleges Scotland Employers Association and the EIS - Further Education Lecturers' Association (EIS-FELA) agreed that mandatory registration was part of the outcome of national bargaining (NJNC Circular 03/18). Registration with GTC Scotland now forms part of the agreed national terms and conditions of employment for all college lecturers under the new harmonisation arrangements. Find out more about college lecturer registration.

GTC Scotland's governing legislation, the Public Services Reform (General Teaching Council for Scotland) Order 2011 sets out GTC Scotland's powers and functions. The Order empowers GTC Scotland to hold and regulate one Register – a Register of Teachers. GTC Scotland cannot open and regulate additional registers within its current legislative framework. The Register of Teachers is divided into registration categories to reflect the nature of the teaching qualification held.

**GTC Scotland seeks views on changes to teacher registration rules**

GTC Scotland, the independent professional and regulatory body for teachers in Scotland, is now consulting on proposed changes to its registration rules. GTC Scotland is required under statute to publicly consult on changes to these Rules.

The current Registration Rules were put in place in 2015 and set out GTC Scotland's registration criteria, ongoing registration requirements and how the Register of Teachers operates. The Rules cover entry to the Register of Teachers as well as enhancements to registration for example, the award of Professional Standard for Headship. That is, as GTC Scotland can hold and regulate one Register – a Register of Teachers – our Registration Rules cover all registrants, teachers of school education and teachers of further education.

**What is being proposed?**

All aspects of the rules are being consulted on including registration categories, registration status, registration rules for individuals who qualified outside Scotland, routes to enhanced registration and maintaining registration.

In terms of registration in further education the review of the Rules aspires to achieve two fundamental aims:

1. To allow GTC Scotland to recognise Scottish teaching qualifications other than the TQFE as suitable for registration. There is already an established process for this under the current Rules for those qualified outside Scotland. The revision of the Rules extends this process to college lecturers who may have a comparable teaching qualification to a TQFE gained in Scotland. Should this proceed following public consultation, invitations to join the Register can be extended to college lecturers with comparable teaching qualifications. This may take place from April 2022, depending on the approval of new Rules by GTC Scotland's Council.

   Information about what proposed components are required in a teaching qualification to be deemed comparable can be found in schedule 2 of the draft Registration Rules 2022.

2. To determine treatment of the existing college lecturer workforce who do not have a teaching qualification. Entry to the Register of Teachers is qualification-based. There is a requirement for college lecturers to have a teaching qualification as expressed in NJNC 03/18. There is, however, an exemption to lecturers appointed prior to 1 April 2019 and known issues with regards to TQFE access, pathways, provision, support and funding.

**Interim Registration**

As part of transitional arrangements to support the existing college lecturer workforce, the draft Registration Rules 2022 propose to introduce a new registration status, 'interim registration' to support college lecturer registration. This proposal allows for a defined group of lecturers to join the Register of Teachers where they do not meet the standard entry criteria – a teaching qualification. Views are being sought on both the creation of such a category of registration and to which group it should apply.

Any application of interim registration must be legally defensible. The consultation proposes that this form of registration be applied to college lecturers employed prior to 1 April 2019 as there is no requirement for this group to undertake a teaching qualification. This proposal is made on the basis that lecturers appointed post this date are contractually required to achieve a teaching qualification and would therefore at some point in the future meet the criteria for full registration.

The Rules therefore propose offering two registration status for the Further Education category of registration: interim registration and full registration. It is proposed that lecturers with interim registration would move to full registration on completion of a teaching qualification.

It is intended that the proposed changes will take effect from 4 April 2022.

**Access the Consultation**

As a key stakeholder in further education, you have an important contribution to make. I hope you are able to feedback and also help promote the consultation. The consultation can be accessed at https://www.gtcs.org.uk/about-gtcs/our-consultations.aspx and closes on 5 January 2022.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely

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