

# Updated qualifications regulations for school teachers in Wales

## Consultation Response Form

Your name: Tom Hamilton

Organisation (if applicable): General Teaching Council for Scotland

e-mail/telephone number: [tom.hamilton@gpcs.org.uk](mailto:tom.hamilton@gpcs.org.uk)

Your address: Clerwood House, 96 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh EH12 6UT

Responses should be returned by **30 January 2012** to:

Gail Deane  
Learning Improvement and Professional Development Division  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

or completed electronically and sent to:

[teachersqualconsultation@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:teachersqualconsultation@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

1. We are proposing to require that the period of practical teaching experience for those qualifying as a teacher on initial teacher training courses in Wales would need to be undertaken wholly or mainly in a school or other educational institution (except a pupil referral unit) in Wales which has met the national curriculum requirements. Do you agree with this?

**Note:** This would not mean that the entire period of practical teaching experience had to be in schools or other educational institutions which met the national curriculum requirements, as it is recognised that this would not necessarily be required for all training designed to enable trainee teachers to demonstrate that they have met the Qualified Teacher Status Standards. The requirement would be that, for the overall total period of practical teaching experience, the majority would have had to have been in schools or other educational institutions (except for pupil referral units) which met the national curriculum requirements.

Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------	-------------------------------------	----------	--------------------------	----------	--------------------------

**Comments:**

This seems a sensible approach.

2. We want to replace the provision in the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (Wales) Regulations 2004 which recognises as a qualified teacher in Wales any persons who are qualified teachers by virtue of regulations made in relation to England with a more specific provision which only covers certain categories of persons qualifying in England. This replacement provision would cover persons qualifying as a teacher in England through:
- (i) an initial teacher training course at an accredited institution there
  - (ii) assessment against the specified standards there, but without having undertaken a specific initial teacher training course (known as the Assessment Only route)
  - (iii) successful completion of a period of training on an employment-based teacher training scheme in England.

Do you agree with this?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
-------	--------------------------	----------	--------------------------	----------	-------------------------------------

**Comments:**

The GTCS is currently more restrictive than this, only accepting teachers from the English system who have successfully completed route (i). However, independence for the GTCS (from April of this year) will give the GTCS increased powers and we may consider different approaches in the future – one possibility being the potential accreditation of specific Graduate Teacher Programmes which meet Scottish requirements.

3. We want to prevent someone who may have gained recognition as a teacher in Scotland or Northern Ireland without having taught in those countries from being able to be qualified as a teacher in Wales. We propose to have an effective requirement of having to have worked 60 days in an educational institution in those countries. Do you agree with this?

**Note:** The 60-day period is not intended to provide a demonstration of proficiency for teaching purposes in schools in Wales, but to prevent overseas-trained teachers with no teaching experience in Britain from gaining Qualified Teacher Status by registering in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

<b>Agree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not sure</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

**Comments:**

Scotland would not wish to be seen as a backdoor to recognition in Wales for overseas teachers but we would comment that, as phrased, the current wording suggests that this also applies to a Newly Qualified Teacher from a Scottish initial teacher education university programme. Is this intended?

4. Do you agree that for those who could be qualified teachers by virtue of their recognition as teachers in schools in Northern Ireland, we should now refer to registration with the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland?

<b>Agree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not sure</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

**Comments:**

Yes.

5. Do you agree that we should not continue with a provision allowing qualification as a teacher by certain independent school or further education teachers on the basis of qualifications gained before 1974, or 1989 in certain subjects?

<b>Agree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not sure</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

**Comments:**

This seems to be a largely historical matter and as such there is a clear rationale for the proposed change.

6. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

**Comments:**

Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential, please tick here: