



Professional Update

Information on Associate and General Status

In order to recognise the range of circumstances of teachers registered with GTC Scotland, Council has agreed that, in the future, different 'statuses' of registration will be introduced. The default status for all currently Fully Registered teachers will be Fully Registered (General) and this will be what is required to teach in schools (other than new/returning teachers working towards that status). However, Council has further agreed that a new status of Fully Registered (Associate) will be introduced.

Fully Registered (Associate) will become available **as an option** for those holding full registration who do not wish to remain in the General category because of their circumstances e.g. they are not working, working in a non education related environment or retired.

Teachers with Associate status will be exempt from the five yearly sign-off process of Professional Update. As they are still professionals on the GTCS Register, they will be expected to meet the other professional update expectations as regards participating in ongoing professional development so access will be provided to the MyGTCS online portfolio which will enable them to record their professional learning and associated evidence, should they so wish. Very importantly such teachers will be expected to maintain the appropriate Professional Values required of all teachers and they will continue to be subject to Fitness to Teach requirements. They will also still complete an annual update for the GTCS. They will retain their professional status as fully registered teachers who are qualified to teach and it will be open to them to seek a return to the General Category at any time, following guidelines set by GTC Scotland.

Clear, unequivocal guidance on what Associate status means will be developed and publicised with the option of moving to Full Registration (Associate) status beginning to be offered as a possibility during session 2014/15.