

**Memorandum of Understanding between the
Scottish Government (SG) and
General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)**

Over-arching objective

1. The Scottish Government (SG) and the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) agree to collaborate to promote and improve learning and teaching in Scotland in order to increase opportunities and improve outcomes for learners.

Purpose of this Memorandum

2. The purpose of this Memorandum is to formalise the agreement between the Scottish Government and the GTCS that a communicative and constructive relationship is necessary to ensure that the over-arching objective is achieved and is the focus of each party's policies and practices.
3. Both parties agree that there are five main areas of understanding that are vital to the continuing good relationship:

Mutual agreement on areas of continuing partnership and on the benefits arising from the maintenance and development of shared policy interests;

Mutual recognition of each party's respective roles and responsibilities;

Mutual recognition of the importance of broad and open communication;

Mutual recognition of the benefits of high quality statistics and research; and

Mutual recognition of the need to share information relevant to functions.

Roles and responsibilities of the parties

4. Each party recognises and respects the other's roles and functions.
 - **The Scottish Government** is responsible for developing and implementing national, public policy on devolved matters, for bringing legislation before the Scottish Parliament as necessary, and for the discharge of the functions assigned to the Scottish Ministers by legislation.
 - **The GTCS** was established under powers in the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 as an independent, profession-led regulatory/...

regulatory body. To this end the Public Services Reform (General Teaching Council for Scotland) Order 2011 came fully into effect on 2 April 2012. The GTCS's general functions are:

- (a) to keep the register of teachers of those entitled to teach in public sector schools and Scotland's Colleges;
- (b) to establish and to review and change as necessary:
 - (i) the standards of education and training appropriate to school teachers;
 - (ii) the standards of conduct and professional competence expected of a registered teacher;
- (c) to investigate the fitness to teach of individuals who are, or who are seeking to be, registered;
- (d) to keep itself informed of the education and training of individuals undertaking courses for the education and training of teachers;
- (e) to consider, and to make recommendations to the Scottish Ministers about, matters relating to:
 - (i) teachers' education, training, career development and fitness to teach; and
 - (ii) the supply of teachers (except matters of remuneration or conditions of service); and
- (f) to keep such other registers of other individuals working in educational settings as it thinks fit.

Both parties recognise the need to ensure discussion of policy development on appropriate issues relevant to these general functions as well as in relation to the specific duty to develop and introduce a scheme of 'professional update'.

Communication

5. Both parties are committed to building upon the good relationships that have been established, developed and maintained since the GTCS was first established. In particular, both parties are committed to establishing, developing and maintaining open and constructive channels of communications through which they will keep each other apprised of current issues with an underlying objective of achieving a 'no surprises' relationship.

- 6. These channels of communication will include and range from ad hoc, informal communication between officials about topical issues; through more formal, regular, bi-monthly, scheduled meetings between officials to discuss an agreed agenda; to SG officials attending GTCS Council meetings as appropriate and formal, ad hoc meetings between GTCS officials and/or members and Government Ministers and/or officials. GTCS staff will also continue to be invited as appropriate to attend and engage in meetings organised between Scottish Government and key educational and other partners.
- 7. Both parties agree to keep confidential any discussion or information shared between them (in whatever context) that is identified as being of a private or confidential nature.

Organisational Issues

- 8. It is agreed that the arrangements and agreements in place as at 1 April 2012 between GTCS and the Scottish Government in respect of the organisation and delivery of certain initiatives related to teaching in Scotland will continue. This includes, *inter alia*, the arrangements for the Teacher Induction Scheme.

Statistics and Research

- 9. The GTCS will, in due course, by Parliamentary Order, become a producer of Official Statistics and thereafter be able to move towards National Statistics accreditation by the Statistics Authority.
- 10. Appropriate data-sharing agreements between Scottish Government and the GTCS will be agreed and documented separately (and will be in line with the relevant legislation). The data sharing agreements will be attached to this Memorandum as appendices in due course.

**SG/GTCS
August 2012**

Scottish Government:

John Docherty
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**General Teaching Council
for Scotland:**

Anthony
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Date:

10/8/12
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