

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1033
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05615/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

5 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 September 2020 and for the opportunity to respond to the issues raised in petition P-05-1033.

The Education Workforce Council (EWC) was established by the Education (Wales) Act 2014. The EWC is the independent regulator for teachers and support staff in maintained schools, further education colleges, as well as qualified youth and youth support workers and people involved in work-based learning. Anybody working in these roles in Wales must, by law, be registered with the EWC. The principal aims of the EWC are to contribute to improving the standards of teaching and the quality of learning in Wales, and to maintain and improve standards of professional conduct amongst teachers and persons who support teaching and learning in Wales.

Requirement to Register

Professional registration is a vital element of ensuring that public trust and confidence is maintained in the education workforce; as well as safeguarding the interests of learners, parents and the public. In addition, professional registration helps to maintain confidence amongst the workforce itself, demonstrating a shared commitment to professionalism. All practitioners benefit from the recognition of a professional body that upholds professional standards; and monitors the registration, qualification and professional development of its members.

The requirement for registration for the education workforce is similar to the requirement for many other professionals to pay to register with their regulatory body as a requirement of employment. For example, social care workers in Wales must register with Social Care Wales; doctors must register with the General Medical Council; and nurses must register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Registration Fees

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Section 12 of the Education (Wales) Act 2014 authorises the EWC to charge and recover registration fees. The fee models for the EWC were developed with three key principles in mind: sustainability, proportionality and cost effectiveness. Creating a model with differentiated fees based on salary scales was considered in the development of the legislation. However, analysis suggested this method would be extremely complex to administer, and consequently more costly. Higher administration costs would lead to higher fees for all registrants. It is for these reasons there is also no differentiation between those working full and part time.

However, the Welsh Government has endeavoured to ensure that fees associated with registration are fair and comparable to practitioners' potential earnings within their categories of registration. The Welsh Government recognises that learning support workers in Wales earn significantly less compared to teachers; and therefore provides a subsidy to reduce their actual fee contribution to £15. The teacher categories are provided with a smaller subsidy that reduces their actual fee contribution to £45. From 1 April 2017 and thereafter, the Welsh Government has provided £1million per annum to subsidise the registration fee for the whole education workforce.

Registration categories

Headteachers of schools are required to register with the EWC. Although principals of further education colleges are not included in the categories of registration, if someone in a managerial position undertakes a teaching role from time to time, in conjunction with their main duties, they would fall under the definitions set out in the 2014 Act and be subject to registration.

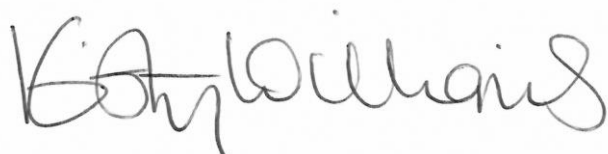
Teachers in higher education and the independent sector are not currently regulated by the EWC. Work is progressing on considering the regulatory changes required to address gaps in categories of registration, for example extending the scope to include youth workers, the adult community learning sector and staff in independent schools. The extent to which these changes would require primary and/or secondary legislation is under active consideration.

EWC organisation

The Council consists of 14 members, representing a range of interests of the education workforce in Wales. Under the provisions of the Education Workforce Council (Membership and Appointment) (Wales) Regulations 2014, seven members are appointed following nominations made by organisations named in Schedule 2 of those Regulations, which include unions representing the education workforce. All bodies and organisations entitled to make nominations are invited to submit nomination(s). The remaining members are appointed through the Welsh Government public appointments process. Members serve a term of up to 5 years.

I trust the Committee will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



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