

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref cla19
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/06016/11

David Melding AM
Chair - Constitutional & Legislative Affairs Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

10 October 2011

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 27 September regarding the Headteachers' Qualifications and Registration (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

Last year officials undertook a review of the arrangements for professional standards, performance management and continuing professional development (CPD) for the school workforce in Wales. The outcome of this concluded that the current arrangements in Wales required major revision. In terms of school leadership it was agreed that there was a need to develop a new approach to the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) programme in Wales to ensure that it was more rigorous, challenging and robust. This supported the findings of the Estyn Report to which you have referred.

With the pilot the NPQH will be awarded on the basis of a rigorous practice based assessment against the National Standards for Headship. This approach should help to ensure that those candidates who gain the qualification can evidence the standards, skills and attributes required; and that they are ready to take up headship posts.

There are 33 pilot candidates from across Wales undertaking the pilot, which is progressing well – in terms of timetable and feedback – with Assessment Centres taking place in all four Consortia regions between 10-14 October. Following national moderation, the NPQH will be awarded to successful candidates with in January 2012. (The final cohort from the former model of the NPQH graduated this summer as scheduled.)

The roll out of the programme has been timed to ensure that there is no break in provision and applications will shortly be invited for this academic year. Applications will be due in advance of completion of the pilot and those candidates who are selected for the roll out and who are subsequently successful in their assessments will attain the NPQH before the end of the summer term 2012 – which is comparable with the previous arrangements.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Leighton.Andrews@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

Printed on 100% recycled paper

This will ensure that no candidates are disadvantaged and that there is no break in the supply of headteachers.

We are evaluating the individual elements of the pilot as we go along in order to inform the arrangements for the corresponding elements of the roll out.

I will, of course, keep the Assembly informed with progress on the pilot and the plans for roll out as they are firmed up in the wake of the overall evaluation of the pilot.

Yours sincerely
Leighton Andrews

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills