



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-727  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06400/16

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

6 January 2017

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter dated 21 December regarding the Education Workforce Council registration fees for learning support workers.

On 27 June 2016, the Welsh Government launched an 8 week consultation seeking the views on the proposals for the registration fee model from April 2017, for which all comments were taken into account to help and inform the development of a new set of regulations to be made under the Education Wales Act 2014; and which will be subject to the approval of the National Assembly by resolution within the coming weeks.

The proposed fee structure is set out below (it should be noted that the registration fee for all practitioners before the inclusion of any subsidy is £46), with the actual contribution paid by all practitioners remaining unchanged from last year.

Practitioner Group	Registration Fee	Subsidy*	Actual Contribution
School Teachers	£46	£1	<b>£45</b>
FE Teachers	£46	£1	<b>£45</b>
School LSW	£46	£31	<b>£15</b>
FE LSW	£46	£31	<b>£15</b>
WBL Practitioners	£46	£1	<b>£45</b>
Professional Youth Workers	£46	£1	<b>£45</b>
Youth Support Workers	£46	£31	<b>£15</b>

*\*All subsidies in this model will be paid to the Council via the Welsh Government.*

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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.

This proposed model will continue to see lower earning practitioner groups (learning support workers and youth support workers) receiving a £31 subsidy towards their registration fee.

In setting the fee models for registrants there has been recognition that during these times of austerity and on-going pay freezes in the public sector, the Welsh Government has a duty to protect the education workforce from unnecessarily high fee levels. With this in mind the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government and I approved the transfer of £1million, with effect from 2017-18 (subject to the approval of the new fee regulations by the National Assembly), from the Revenue Support Grant to support the registration subsidy for all practitioners.

I believe that there have been clear benefits of registering this sector of the education workforce. It has enhanced their status and recognised that they play a vital and valued role in supporting teaching and learning. It also raises and maintains standards, as part of a single and coherent education workforce.


A link to the aforementioned consultation (supported by the majority of respondents), summary of responses and the associated Government response is enclosed

[https://consultations.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultation\\_doc\\_files/160624-registration-fees-for-education-workforce-council-consultation-en.pdf](https://consultations.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultation_doc_files/160624-registration-fees-for-education-workforce-council-consultation-en.pdf)

[https://consultations.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultation\\_doc\\_files/161125\\_registrationfee\\_sfortheeducationworkforceinwales\\_summaryofresponses\\_en.pdf](https://consultations.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultation_doc_files/161125_registrationfee_sfortheeducationworkforceinwales_summaryofresponses_en.pdf)

I trust you find my response helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education