

Consultation on Updated Teachers' Qualifications Regulations Wales – Additional information

We have noted one minor additional point about the 2004 Regulations which we would propose to change in replacement regulations. Under the provisions of regulation 5 of the 2004 Regulations, persons mentioned in paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 (those who as respects the profession of school teacher fall within the European Communities (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2007) ("the 2007 Regulations") are qualified teachers. However, unlike many of the other categories of persons listed in Schedule 2 who are qualified teachers, there is no requirement for the relevant teachers from the European Economic Area ("EEA") or Switzerland to receive written notification from the Welsh Ministers or the General Teaching Council for Wales ("GTCW") to this effect.

It is not clear at this point why the 2004 Regulations do not include relevant EEA / Swiss teachers in this way. Our previous qualifications regulations (the Education (Teachers' Qualifications and Health Standards) (Wales) Regulations 1999) and the current parallel provisions in England (the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003) both included provision for written notification of qualified teacher status ("QTS") in respect of this category of teacher.

The GTCW already undertakes QTS recognition in Wales for EEA / Swiss teachers as part of its role as 'competent authority' under the 2007 Regulations. The GTCW assesses applications and, if the relevant criteria are met, will issue the applicant with a teacher reference number and a QTS certificate.

In view of all this, we are proposing to provide in an updated replacement for the 2004 Regulations that persons who as respects the profession of school teacher are entitled to practise in the United Kingdom pursuant to Part 2 and Chapters 1, 2 and 4 of Part 3 of the 2007 Regulations are qualified teachers, and must receive written notification from the Welsh Ministers or the GTCW to this effect. This would be in addition to the issues covered in the published consultation document.