

Proposed amendments to the Education Workforce Council (Membership and Appointment) (Wales) Regulations 2014

Consultation response form	<p>Your name: Jo Sims</p> <p>Organisation (if applicable): Wales Principal Youth Officers' Group (PYOG)</p> <p>e-mail/telephone number: jo.sims@blaenau-gwent.goc.uk</p> <p>Your address: Youth Service, EVI Cultural Centre, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent NP23 6BE</p>
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Responses should be returned by 4 April 2018 to:

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Schools Effectiveness Division
The Education Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or completed electronically and sent to:

e-mail: ewc.enquiries@gov.wales

Question 1 – What organisations that represent the categories set out in paragraph 5.2 do you feel should be included in Part 2 of the list?

Supporting comments

Recent data held by the EWC indicates that circa 1,000 Youth Support Workers and Youth Workers are currently registered. Of these, circa 650 are Youth Support Workers and 350 are registered Youth Workers. Approximately 120 of these are in the voluntary sector.

The PYOG proposes that the following organisations should be added to Part 2 of the list:

- The Wales Principal Youth Officers Group (PYOG) - local authorities
- The Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS) – voluntary sector umbrella body
- Education Training Standards (ETS) Wales Committee

Question 2 – Do you have any related issues to the proposed amendment to Schedule 1, Part 2 of the regulations, which you feel we have not specifically addressed?

Given the purpose of this consultation as being to introduce new nominating bodies to the Schedule, thereby also reflecting the workforce of the new registrant groups, the PYOG is surprised to learn (section 5.4) that the number of Council members will remain at 14.

The implication herein is that, rather than creating extra capacity on the Council to reflect the increase in scope (and number of nominating bodies), representation from the new groups, if successful following nomination, would need to be absorbed under the current level of membership. As 7 members are directly appointed by Welsh Ministers (4 of which to come from Trade Unions), this leaves only 7 from a list of nominations, a list which is being increased.

Currently, these 7 are taken from only two sectors – those of Teaching and Further Education. Whilst fully supportive of the proposal to reflect the new registrant groups on the Council, the PYOG recommends that, by including Work-Based Learning and Youth Work (thereby increasing the number of registrant groups from 2 to four) the number of Council Members also needs to increase.

Although 5.6 of the consultation indicates that ‘both nominations and direct public appointments ensures that the Membership of the Council truly reflects all categories of practitioners to be registered with the EWC’, there does not appear to be any built-in assurance that this will happen. Though the PYOG is hopeful that the result of this consultation is a step in the right direction, there does appear to be potential for one or more category to be overlooked.

Question 3 – We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposed amendments to the Education Workforce Council (Membership and Appointment) (Wales) Regulations 2014 would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh
- ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Supporting comments

No comments

Question 4 – Please also explain how you believe the proposed amendments to the Education Workforce Council (Membership and Appointment) (Wales) Regulations 2014 could be formulated or changed so as to have:

- i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language
- ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Supporting comments

No comments

Question 5 – We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

The Youth Work sector has worked closely with the EWC on the content of its current Code of Conduct and other relevant documentation to ensure that these are accessible to and inclusive of the different methodologies and practices of the wider education workforce. For example, the term ‘teachers’ was replaced with ‘registrants’.

Non-formal and informal learning practices (which underpin Youth Work) are just as important as those used in formal learning settings (where terminology such as ‘teaching’ is used). Whilst section 1 (1.1) of the consultation document states that “The council must have the skills, knowledge and expertise to support the wider education workforce...”, a

statement and principle fully supported by the PYOG, it goes on to say that “The quality of teaching practitioners and those who support them is a critical factor in determining the quality of teaching and learning and, subsequently, the outcomes for learners”. Regrettably, this latter statement, referring to ‘teaching’, does not reflect the intention of the first. All references should be to ‘educators’ rather than ‘teachers’.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

