



**Joint Statement by the Teaching Councils for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland**

At a time of considerable movement of teachers between countries, the Teaching Councils of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland wish to clarify our collective expectations of those who may wish to teach within our jurisdictions.

We view teaching as a complex profession which requires high standards of competence, professional skills and commitment. We consider that high quality teaching is necessary to deliver high standards of learning for our students. We believe that quality teaching is achieved when teachers commit themselves to lifelong learning and ongoing reflection on their professional practice; when they have excellent knowledge of the curriculum which they are expected to teach; when they have deep and detailed understanding of how pupils learn; and when they have the confidence to apply and vary their pedagogical skills to meet the needs of learners in different and sometimes challenging contexts.

We support the view that teachers should be *"increasingly expert practitioners whose professional practice and relationships are rooted in strong values, who take responsibility for their own development."* (Donaldson Report 2011)

When assessing the suitability of those who wish to teach within our jurisdictions, we will require that teachers are suitably qualified, both academically and professionally, and that they have appropriate values and a commitment to maintaining and improving their professional practice as they progress throughout their careers.

**April 2013**

Anthony Finn Chief Executive GTCS	Gary Brace Chief Executive, GTCW	Carmel Gallagher CEO and Registrar GTCNI	Tomás Ó Ruairc Director, Teaching Council, Ireland