

20th May 2013

GTCNI commends plan to employ recently qualified teachers

The General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI) has warmly welcomed the plans to employ 230 recently qualified teachers under the Delivering Social Change Signature Project. The First and Deputy Ministers first announced the scheme back in October 2012, and confirmed that the plans would go ahead on Friday 17th May.

The GTCNI Registrar Dr Carmel Gallagher commented:

“The significant increase in the number of unemployed teachers over the past four years or so has been a growing concern, so this initiative is warmly welcomed by the profession. The project provides a win-win situation by providing a much needed resource for ear-marked schools to help improve young people’s literacy and numeracy skills, while also providing opportunities for 230 recently qualified teachers to gain crucial, sustained classroom experience that may help them progress further in their profession.

Our only regret is that this is a temporary uplift in teacher numbers, rather than a permanent one. We would like to see a situation where all our teacher graduates get a guaranteed one year induction opportunity, as is the case in Scotland. This would have the added benefit of giving experienced teachers an opportunity to have some time-out to undertake refresher courses. That really would be a win-win situation all round and it is one that I hope Ministers may consider in future”.

She continued “The teachers who are eligible to apply for the posts are those who have qualified in the period June 2010 to June 2013 and they must be registered with the GTCNI. There may be a requirement to backfill seconded teachers and this dynamic movement of teacher talent can only be of benefit to schools and recent graduate teachers.”

For further details visit:

**<http://www.welbni.org/index.cfm/do/DSCProject>
www.gtcni.org.uk**

Notes to editor

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GTCNI is the independent professional regulatory body for teachers. It is dedicated to enhancing the status of teaching and promoting the highest standards of professional conduct and practice. Any teacher wishing to teach in a grant-aided school in Northern Ireland must be registered with the Council.