

Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee

(CLA(4)-05-11)

CLA19

Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee Report

Title: The Head Teachers' Qualifications and Registration (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011

Procedure: Negative

These Regulations amend the Head Teachers' Qualifications and Registration (Wales) Regulations 2005 by altering the definition of "The National Professional Qualification for Headship in Wales" (NPHQ) in regulation 3(2) of those regulations. The requirements of the NPHQ will change from completion of a course of training approved by the Welsh Ministers to the fulfilment of certain standards approved by the Welsh Ministers.

Technical Scrutiny

No points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.2 in respect of this instrument.

Merits Scrutiny

Under Standing Order 21.3 the Assembly is invited to pay special attention to the following instrument:-

These regulations come on the back of an Estyn report on the NPQH and the Welsh Government's own research. The Estyn report found the qualification ineffective and that:

- the supply of NPQH holders far exceeds the demand for headteachers in Wales;
- the current selection process does not necessarily identify the most suitable people for headship; and
- the content of the programme needs to be revised.

Teaching unions have been quoted in the *Times Educational Supplement* as welcoming the overhaul in the NPQH, but they expressed concerns that the supply of heads could be damaged if there is no immediate replacement, and concerns about funding for leadership training. In response the Welsh Government said that funding for NPQH was not being withdrawn and the current cohort of candidates will complete their programme. A pilot for the revised NPQH began earlier this year.

David Melding AM
Chair, Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee

19 September 2011