

## **CIRCULAR NO: 1997/27**

To: Education and Library Boards and  
Principals of Institutions of Further Education

Date:

### **POST-ENTRY TRAINING FOR TEACHERS IN INSTITUTIONS OF FURTHER EDUCATION**

1. The Further Education Teachers' (Eligibility) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 require that every person employed, as a teacher must have such qualifications as may be approved by the Department. These qualifications are set out in DENI Circular 1997/17. **In addition**, there are teacher-training requirements for new teachers, who, on taking up permanent teaching posts in institutions of further education, do not hold a BED degree or a PGCE.

2. This circular updates those teacher-training requirements in the light of the change to the law from 1 October 1997 to end the requirement for new teachers to serve successfully a statutory probationary period.

#### **The Postgraduate Certificate in Further and Higher Education [PGC (FHE)]**

3. Since 1 September 1994, all new entrants to full time permanent teaching or associate lecturer posts in further education and who do not already possess a BED degree or a PGCE have been required to pass the PGC (FHE) awarded by the University of Ulster. This has been a contractual requirement – in the contract of employment for new teachers – from 1 September 1996 and will continue to be so.

4. While it is normally expected that new teachers will work towards gaining the PGC (FHE) during their first year in teaching, they will be required to obtain the award within 3 years from the date of their initial appointment. In exceptional circumstances this period may be extended with the Department's approval.

5. Teachers in post before 1 September 1994 who do not have a recognised teacher training qualification are also encouraged to take the Postgraduate Certificate in Further and Higher Education.

## **The Postgraduate Diploma in Further and Higher education [PGD (FHE)]**

6. Teachers may continue their teacher training into a second year through the study of the PGD (FHE) awarded by the University of Ulster as this will extend their expertise and allow progression into higher degrees. This qualification is not, however, a requisite for teaching in an institution of further education.

### **General**

7. Teachers holding an approved degree together with either GCSE English Language (at least Grade C) or key skill Level 3 or higher in Communication **and** either GCSE Mathematics (at least Grade C) or key skill Level 3 or higher in Application of Number **and** who gain the PGD (FHE) will also be eligible to teach in grant aided schools in Northern Ireland.

8. Colleges will wish to give attention to the requirements of this circular in developing their priorities for staff development.

9. Circular 1994/11 is withdrawn and ceases to have effect after 30 September 1997.

**A S PIDDUCK**

To: Principals of Institutions of Further Education

Date:

Dear Colleague

**CIRCULAR NUMBER 1997/27 – POST-ENTRY TRAINING FOR  
TEACHERS IN INSTITUTIONS OF FURTHER EDUCATION – AMENDMENT  
TO PARAGRAPH 7**

There is a new requirement from 1 September 2000 for all new entrants to primary teacher training courses in Northern Ireland, who were born on or after 1 September 1981 to demonstrate an acceptable level of competence in a science subject or subjects.

In the light of this new requirement, it is necessary to amend paragraph 7 of the above circular, which covers eligibility to teach in grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland.

**General**

7. Teachers holding an approved degree together with either GCSE English Language (at least Grade C) or key skill Level 3 or higher in Communication **and** either GCSE Mathematics (at least Grade C) or key skill Level 3 or higher in Application of Number **and** who gain the PGD (FHE) will also be able to teach in grant aided schools in Northern Ireland, except that teachers born on or after 1 September 1981 must hold a GCSE level pass (at least Grade C) in a Science subject or subjects to be eligible to teach in grant aided primary schools in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely

**J WILKINSON**