

## **GTCNI MEMBER - ROLE SPECIFICATION**

The General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI) was established in October 2002. It is classed as an independent self-regulatory body, governed by a majority of teachers working in partnership with other stakeholders in education.

The GTCNI's remit is to represent the professional interests of teachers and put them on a par with other professions such as doctors, accountants and solicitors. In the context of public relations, it is expected to raise the status of the profession in the media and in society at large by acknowledging and promoting the success of teachers in raising educational standards of young people in the north of Ireland, and in contributing to their achievements and well-being.

The GTCNI advises the Department and employing authorities on a wide range of issues, including the training, career development and performance management of teachers; standards of teaching; and standards of conduct for teachers. It will have powers to remove individual teachers from its register if it finds them guilty of misconduct or serious professional incompetence.

The responsibilities of GTCNI have a statutory basis and are set out in Articles 34-41 to The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998.

In accordance with regulation 7(d) of The General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (Constitution) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001 (SR 2001 No. 288), the Department is required to appoint four members to the Council. They are appointed with the approval of the Education Minister in order to bring an independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy and performance within the Council. They will bring wide experience and critical detachment to the work of the Council. In making appointments to the GTCNI, the Department is required to ensure that:

- one member is representative of industry and commerce; and,
- three members are representative of such other interests as, in the opinion of the Department, will enable the Council to carry out its functions more effectively.

A vacancy has arisen in the Council and the Department proposes to seek nominations for one new member to provide breadth and balance on the Council.

### **TITLE OF POST**

Member of the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The GTCNI member will be accountable to the Education Minister, through the Chair of the Council.

### **ROLE**

At all times Council members must:

- abide by the Seven Principles of Public Life, as laid down by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland, as applied in the GTCNI's Code of Practice for Council Members; and,
- in accordance with Government policy on openness, including the Freedom of Information Act, comply with all reasonable requests for information.

They are also required to:

- play a full and active part in the work of the Council, contributing confidently at full Council meetings;
- subscribe to the objectives of the Council, in particular, maintaining and raising professional standards and improving the quality of teaching and learning in schools;
- promote and work for consensus in the decision making processes of the Council;
- serve on one or more committees - contributing effectively to the detailed work of the Council;
- provide a link between education and other interests, as appropriate;
- keep up to date on current developments in the education field;
- represent public interest on educational matters in all dealings with the Council;
- bring personal experience and expertise to bear in the deliberations of the Council and the formulation of its policies and procedures; and,
- make the commitment of time necessary to fulfil their role as a member of the Council, and any associated committees (see Time Commitment below).

To ensure that public service values remain at the heart of the GTCNI, members are required, on appointment, to subscribe to the Code of Practice for Council Members. The high standards of corporate and personal conduct required of a Council member are described more fully in the Code.

## **TIME AND ATTENDANCE COMMITMENT**

GTCNI holds its full Council meetings on a quarterly basis. Sub-committees usually meet four or five times per year and there may be some additional meetings when the Council has assumed its responsibility for disciplinary work. As yet, the time commitment in relation to the disciplinary work has not been quantified but it is not envisaged that it will be significant. Meetings will take place throughout the north of Ireland.

Candidates should be capable of attending meetings and carrying out the work of the Council within the north of Ireland.

## **REMUNERATION**

The appointment is on a voluntary basis and is not remunerated, although travel and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed for costs incurred on Council business.

## **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT**

Members are normally appointed to the Council for a 4-year term, however, as this appointment is to fill a vacancy due to resignation, the term of appointment will expire on 14 October 2010. The Department will conduct annual assessments of the performance of members during the period of appointment. The Department will be advised by the Council's Chair in this assessment. Re-appointment to the same post may be considered - subject to an appropriate standard of performance having been achieved during the initial period in office. The maximum period of appointment to the Council is 8 years or two terms.