



Department
for Education

Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 3BT

Tel: 0370 000 2288

www.gov.uk/dfes

Email enquiry form:

www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfes

Friday 15 December 2017

Dear James Noble-Rogers,

As you may be aware, in February 2017, the Secretary of State for Education made a commitment to strengthen Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) by September 2019 and ensure that teachers at the start of their careers have access to high quality support and professional development. A commitment was also made to explore options for supporting all teachers at other stages of their career journeys.

As part of this work, we have, today, launched a consultation to explore a number of options and proposals to strengthen QTS and support teacher career progression. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Reviewing the point at which QTS is awarded
- Reviewing the length and content of the statutory induction period for teachers
- Reviewing how to strengthen the provision of mentoring for teachers post-initial teacher training (ITT)
- Testing proposals for the structure, content and delivery of an early careers content framework for teachers in the early stages of their careers
- Exploring the potential for expanding existing National Professional Qualifications to include non-leadership specialisms
- Considering options to quality assure CPD provision for teachers

The consultation will be open for 12 weeks, closing on 9 March 2018.

However, we understand that for a large number of ITT providers, prospectuses will go to print before this consultation closes, hence we are writing to you now.

As we will be consulting on the point at which QTS is awarded, the title of the award gained at the end of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses may be subject to change. However, it is not the Government's intention to change the right to teach unsupervised in a maintained school upon successful completion of an ITT course. As such, all providers advertising ITT courses will need to consider how best to reflect the current position in their course descriptions and titles. We recommend that your members may wish to seek legal advice from their respective institutions, if required.

We recognise that consistency is important. We need to ensure that variation in course descriptions does not give an unfair advantage to some institutions. In light of this, we suggest that any advertising of ITT courses starting in September 2019 should include the following phrase:

QTS* (*The title of this award is subject to change due to an ongoing government consultation at the time of going to press. For the latest information, please visit our website)

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you and your members to respond to the consultation. Your views and comments will be very valuable to us. For further information on our consultation, please visit <https://consult.education.gov.uk/teaching-profession-unit/strengthening-qts-and-improving-career-progression/>.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. R. Conyard". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

Gareth Conyard,

Assistant Director

Head of the Teaching Profession Unit