

department for

education and skills

creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence

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Dear Colleague

Technical Consultation: Mandatory NPQH

In the Summer Term of 2002, we carried out a wide-ranging consultation on the proposal that the requirement for first-time headteachers to hold or be working towards the National Professional Qualification for Headship should be mandatory from April 2004. We also undertook to carry out a short technical consultation on the draft regulations and guidance relating to mandatory NPQH.

I am therefore writing to seek your views on the attached draft regulations and supporting guidance and to ask you for any comments that you may have on them. (See page 21 of the guidance for the text of the regulations). **In particular, we would like to know whether you feel that the guidance is clear and explains the roles of those involved once the requirement to hold NPQH or be working towards it is in force from 1 April 2004.** The stakeholders we are consulting with are: LEAs, Local Authority Associations, Professional Associations, Governing Body Associations, Diocesan Bodies and other faith associations, the National College for School Leadership and regional NPQH Centres. A list of bodies being consulted is attached for information.

Please send back your views to npqh.mandatory@dfes.gsi.gov.uk Alternatively, you can reply by post to this address:

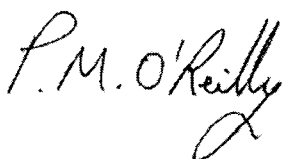
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Any enquiries to 0207 925 5760. The fax number is 0207 925 5967.

Please note that the deadline for receipt of responses is **Friday 11 July 2003** and that, as this is a technical consultation, it only lasts for 7 weeks.

The summary of responses to the 2002 consultation is available on the DfES website at this address: www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/sor/sor.cfm?CONID=169 If you require further copies of this invitation to consult, or wish to see the original consultation document, please contact the number above.

Yours sincerely



Peter O'Reilly
School Leadership Policy and Programmes Team



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Organisations being consulted for the technical consultation on the NPQH mandatory regulations:
Agency for Jews Education
Association of London Government
Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Catholic Education Service for England and Wales
Church of England Board of Education
Free Churches' Council
General Teaching Council
Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools
Independent Schools Council
Information for School and College Governors
LEAs
Local Government Association
Muslim Educational Trust
NASUWT
National Association of Governors and Managers
National Association of Head Teachers
National Association of Independent Schools and non maintained special schools (NASS)
National College for School Leadership
National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers
National Governors Council
National Union of Teachers
Ofsted
Professional Association of Teachers
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
Secondary Heads Association
Society of Headmasters and Headmistresses of Independent Schools
Technology Colleges Trust
The Board of Deputies of British Jews
The Forum for Maintained Nursery Schools
The Society of Education Officers
The Teacher Training Agency
The ten regional NPQH Centres

These are the seven criteria from the Code of Practice for Written Consultation, which every Government Department should abide by.

1. The timing of the consultation should be built into the planning process for a policy (including legislation) or service from the start, so that it has the best prospect of improving the proposals concerned, and so that sufficient time is left for it at each stage.
2. It should be clear who is being consulted, about what questions, in what timescale and for what purpose.
3. A consultation document should be as simple and concise as possible. It should include a summary, in two pages at most, of the main questions it seeks views on. It should make it as easy as possible for readers to respond, make contact or complain.
4. Documents should be made widely available, with the fullest use of electronic means (though not to the exclusion of others), and effectively drawn to the attention of all interested groups and individuals.
5. Sufficient time should be allowed for considered responses from all groups with an interest. Twelve weeks should be the standard minimum period for a consultation.
6. Responses should be carefully and open-mindedly analysed, and the results made widely available, with an account of the views expressed, and reasons for decisions finally taken.
7. Departments should monitor and evaluate consultations, designating a consultation co-ordinator who will ensure the lessons are disseminated.

The theory and practice of implementing mandatory NPQH was fully consulted on with a wide audience in the Summer Term of 2002. The Summary of Responses is available on the DfES consultations website at this address: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/sor/sor.cfm?CONID=169> This is a technical consultation with key stakeholders, to seek their opinions on the wording of the Regulations and accompanying Guidance. As such, it will last 7 weeks.