

To: Boards of Governors and Principals of
grant-aided schools and Bursars of voluntary
grammar schools

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GENERAL TEACHING COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (GTCNI) REGISTRATION FEE

The Department has received several pieces of recent correspondence enquiring if GTCNI teacher registration fees will still be deducted from teachers' salaries for the 2022/23 registration year. For the avoidance of any confusion or doubt in this matter, we can provide the following clarification.

In the Minister's statement to the Assembly on 13 December 2021, following receipt of a highly critical assessment of GTCNI's Council, she announced her intention to dissolve the GTCNI and to stand down the GTCNI's Council with immediate effect. She also confirmed that DE would be consulting on how GTCNI's essential functions, those which directly support our teaching workforce, can be protected and delivered more effectively in future.

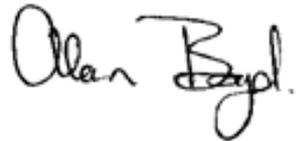
As GTCNI is established under legislation, its dissolution will require the passage of fresh legislation by the NI Assembly. The Minister therefore specifically confirmed that until this occurred, GTCNI would continue to operate as a Non-Departmental Public Body, under the oversight of the Department, and would continue to meet its statutory duty to keep a register of those entitled to work as teachers within our schools.

The Minister's decision to stand down GTCNI's Council does not change the legal requirement (under Article 35 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998) that all teachers in our schools must be GTCNI registered; nor does it change the requirement (under the GTCNI (Deduction of Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004) that teachers must pay an annual fee to maintain their registration.

Accordingly, teacher registration fees will continue to be collected in line with established processes; and the required notifications to initiate these have already been issued by GTCNI.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that this message is relayed to your teachers. If you have any queries please e-mail teachereducationteam@education-ni.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'B'.

ALAN BOYD
Head of Teacher Education Team