



The Educational
Institute of Scotland

Mr A Finn
Chief Executive and Registrar
The General Teaching Council for Scotland
Clerwood House
96 Clermiston Road
Edinburgh
EH12 6UT

Ref: LF/EG
5 November 2012

Dear Tony

I have been asked to include with our response to the consultation a short covering letter summarising our key points of concern.

The first of these is to express the view that the consultation questions appear to be unnecessarily restrictive in their scope and seem to presuppose support for the proposals outlined. A more open process would have facilitated the expression of dissent. This touches on a broader concern that the EIS has about the growing desire on the part of some in Scottish education to ascribe views and roles to the GTCS in a manner which does not seem to fully acknowledge the independent status of the organisation.

This is perhaps an issue upon which your own Council may wish to reflect.

The second key point is to reiterate the view previously expressed that the EIS is keen to see a progressive environment for career long professional development but as is evident from our submission we believe the current proposal is flawed and needs to be subject to a fundamental re-appraisal. We would be keen to engage in further dialogue in this area as it is essential that trust and confidence is built around any future arrangements. Indeed, some of the concern which the EIS would express on the current proposals centres on potential misinterpretation of the function of the standards by some stakeholders in Scottish Education.

Finally, the EIS recognises that in one sense the issue of Standards needs to stand aloft from immediate economic constraints but in terms of how change is managed and how the profession perceives and engages with change, recognition needs to be given to the challenges facing Scottish education at present.

As ever, the EIS remains open to continued discussions on these matters.

Yours sincerely

Larry Flanagan
General Secretary

