

The Education Workforce Council (EWC)

Consultation on proposed ITE accreditation fees

Date of issue: 14 May 2018

Responses required: 6 July 2018 (5pm)

Proposed fees for the accreditation of programmes of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) in Wales

Overview: This document invites views on the proposed fee model for the accreditation of programmes of ITE in Wales.

How to respond: Submit online using the [link](#) or email responses to ITEaccreditation@ewc.wales by 5pm on 6 July 2018

Contact Details: For further information:
ITE Accreditation
e-mail: ITEaccreditation@ewc.wales
telephone: 029 2046 0099

Data protection: **How the views and information you provide to us will be used**

The EWC intends to publish a summary of responses which will include the name of the person or organisation that sent the response. If you do not wish your name or organisation name to be published, please indicate this when you submit your response.

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND TO THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

An order was laid before the National Assembly on the 15 February 2017 adding four additional powers to EWC's existing statutory duties under the Education (Wales) Act 2014, namely:

- accrediting courses or programmes of initial school teacher education;
- monitoring compliance of accredited courses or programmes of initial teacher education with the accreditation criteria;
- withdrawing accreditation of courses or programmes of initial school teacher education;
- charging fees in connection with providing the service.

In carrying out these functions, EWC seeks to ensure that programmes of ITE are professionally appropriate, demanding and lead to student teachers meeting the Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) standards in Wales.

Regulations came into force on the 10 March 2017 setting out further detail of EWC's new role.

As noted above, the *Education Workforce Council (Accreditation of Initial Teacher Training) (Additional Functions) Order 2017* allows the EWC to charge a fee to partnerships to assess its programme. The fees charged by the EWC may not exceed the cost of providing the service.

SECTION 2: CURRENT FEE ARRANGEMENTS

Partnerships submitting programmes of ITE which run from September 2019 have not been charged a fee as costs for the initial round of accreditations have been met by the Welsh Government, through grant funding to the EWC.

SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEE PROPOSALS FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF ITE PROGRAMMES

The fee models proposed have been developed so that accreditation fees are sufficient to cover the EWC's direct costs associated with accreditation visits. As accreditation of ITE programmes is a core, statutory function of the EWC, costs for staffing and overheads have not been taken into account when considering what fees should be charged to partnerships.

All proposed fee models have been based on a partial cost recovery model, taking into account projected actual costs for undertaking accreditation assessments and reviews.

Three key principles have been used to influence the development of each proposed fee model. These principles are:

- **Sustainability** – the fees to be paid must be at a sufficient level to ensure the EWC has a sustainable level of funding to enable them to undertake its statutory function in relation to ITE accreditation;
- **Proportionality** – any level of fee must be proportionate to the work being undertaken by the ITE Accreditation Board (the Board) and officers;
- **Cost effectiveness** – any proposed model must be cost effective in terms of administrative costs to the EWC.

SECTION 4: PROPOSED FEE MODELS

Model 1

Model 1 proposes that partnerships be charged a separate fee for each:

- i) accreditation assessment (new and existing programmes);
- ii) review of major changes to a programme; and
- iii) monitoring visit undertaken through the Board.

Fees per application / visit

Application for accreditation (new programme)	£7,400
Application for accreditation (existing programme)	£7,400
Review of proposed major changes to an accredited programme of ITE	£1,700
Monitoring visit <i>This relates to a visit by a committee of the Board where conditions of accreditation have been imposed, and does not relate to the annual monitoring visits undertaken by Estyn.</i>	Half-day £875 Full day £1,400

Payment of fees

The fee for applications for accreditation (new and existing programmes) are to be paid at the time the partnership submits the completed proforma to the EWC.

The fee for a review of major changes to a programme will be requested by the EWC once the proposed changes have been considered, and officers have determined that a review by a committee of the Board is required.

The fee for monitoring visits will be requested by the EWC once a date has been scheduled for a committee of the Board to visit the partnership.

Model 2

Model 2 proposes that partnerships be charged a separate fee for each accreditation assessment (new and existing programmes) undertaken through the Board plus an annual monitoring fee, which would cover an unlimited number of reviews of major changes to a programme and monitoring visits, undertaken through the Board during each year.

Fees per application

Application for accreditation (new programme)	£7,400
Application for accreditation (existing programme)	£7,400

Annual fee

1 programme	£740
2 programmes	£1,480
3 programmes	£2,220
4 programmes	£2,960
5 programmes	£3,700
Any additional programmes	£740 each

Payment of fees

The fee for applications for accreditation (new and existing programmes) are to be paid at the time the partnership submits its proforma to the EWC.

The annual fee is to be paid by the partnership to the EWC on or around 1 September each year.

Model 3

Model 3 proposes that partnerships be charged a single fee for every accreditation assessment (new and existing programmes) undertaken through the Board, but which takes into account any subsequent monitoring visits or reviews of major changes for the duration of the accreditation (usually 5 years).

Fees per application

Application for accreditation – new or existing programme	£11,100
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Includes any subsequent monitoring visits during the period of accreditation- Includes any subsequent reviews required for major changes to the programme during the period of accreditation	

Payment of fees

The fees are to be paid at the time the partnership submits its proforma to the EWC.

Introduction of the agreed fee model

The new fee model will be introduced following consideration of the consultation responses.

For new programme submissions, the fees will apply from 1 September 2018.

Any Partnerships wishing to offer programmes of ITE from September 2020 will need to submit these to the EWC by 1 December 2018. The EWC will not consider any new programme submissions before this date.

For monitoring visits or reviews of existing programmes, accredited in the initial round of accreditations, the fees will apply from 1 April 2019.

Summary of proposed models

The EWC's preferred model for ITE accreditation fees is model 1. The clear benefit to this model is that partnerships are paying directly, only for the services they require, and the EWC will not be providing a service for which they are unable to recover costs.

In relation to model 2, EWC will potentially be providing some services for which it may be unable to recover costs. For example, should a programme require multiple monitoring visits during a year, the cost of the visits may be higher than the annual fees being paid by the partnership. Similarly, if a partnership does not require any monitoring visits, the partnership will be paying for a service it does not require.

Additionally, in relation to model 3, by paying the equivalent of the annual fee at the time of submission, should accreditation be withdrawn, or a partnership chooses to no longer offer a programme, during the 5 year period, the partnership would have already paid for any potential visits, which would now not take place.

SECTION 5: SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Specific questions are listed on the Consultation Response Form and you are invited to provide answers to these using the online [link](#) or by downloading the [response form](#) and emailing it to iteaccreditation@ewc.wales.

Question 1

Do you agree that the fees charged by EWC may not exceed the cost of providing the service?

Question 2

The EWC is proposing to proceed on the basis of model 1. Do you agree this is the appropriate model?

Question 3

In relation to your preferred model, do you agree with the timeframe for the payment or collection of the accreditation fees?

Question 4

We would like to know your views on the effects the proposed fee model would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- i) opportunities for people to use the Welsh language; and
- ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Question 5

Please provide any further comments you have on the proposals within this document.