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Press Release

So who is educating our learners?

We know a lot about school teachers in Wales. This is because the Education Workforce Council (EWC) and its predecessor the General Teaching Council for Wales has maintained a Register since 2001 and provides unique data for government and others to use in shaping educational policy.

The data from our annual stats [digest](#) shows that there is a lot to be positive about. There continues to be a healthy supply of newly qualified teachers wanting to teach in Wales each year, and we enjoy retention rates that are the envy of our neighbours across the border. Over a third of registered school teachers can speak Welsh, a figure that is noticeably higher than that recorded in the latest census.

However, there are over 200 fewer headteachers in Wales compared to four years ago, and fewer qualified teachers for core subjects such as English, maths and Modern foreign languages.

Since FE teachers were asked to join the EWC register from 1 April 2015, there are now over 5,900 full-time and part-time FE teachers registered in Wales.

On 1st April 2016, school and FE learning support staff will also join the Register. Estimates currently put the number of new registrants at around 25,000 and the EWC is working with local authorities, schools, colleges, supply agencies and trade unions to raise awareness about the new requirements and ensure all those already in employment are registered ready for next April.

Over time, as each new group of education practitioners joins the Register, our knowledge of the workforce will improve. This has the potential to significantly enhance workforce planning and policy development in Wales, and indeed, there are very few countries in the world that will know as much about their education workforce. As they say, “knowledge is power”!

Hayden Llewellyn,
Chief executive, Education Workforce Council



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