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Press release

Wales' first national education workforce survey results revealed.

The Education Workforce Council (EWC) has published the results of the first ever national workforce survey of registered education professionals. The study, commissioned by the Welsh Government, covered teachers, lecturers and learning support staff who work in schools and further education (FE) as well as school supply staff. It sought views on matters such as professional development, performance management, workload, curriculum and assessment and Welsh language and received over 10,000 responses.

Over 90% of respondents said that they found teaching / supporting learners and seeing them progress as the most rewarding part of their job. They also enjoyed working with colleagues and trying out new methods. Teachers reported workload and administration as the least rewarding aspects, whilst learning support staff identified workload and financial constraints as the least rewarding aspects.

The majority of school and FE staff wish to continue to practise and further develop in their careers. The percentage of respondents who indicated that they would like to leave the profession, ranged from 14% (FE learning support workers) to 34% (school teachers).

Over 70% of respondents felt that they had gained access to the professional help they needed over the last 12 months. Given more time, respondents would welcome more development in digital technology, curriculum and behaviour management. In addition, over 70% of respondents considered themselves confident or fairly confident in using ICT in their work.

The survey showed a notable variation in relation to workload. Most learning support staff in both schools and FE believed that they were able to manage their workload. However, most teachers and lecturers in both settings said that they were unable to do so, quoting administration, fitting curriculum content into the allotted hours and accountability as factors.

EWC Chief Executive Hayden Llewellyn said, "These results lift the lid on many of the professional challenges our school and FE staff face and offer robust data to back up some of the anecdotes we often hear.

Rob Williams, Director of NAHT Cymru added, "This survey confirms many issues that teachers and school leaders have been raising for some time. I am encouraged that the EWC and Welsh Government have initiated this work. It will now be critical that the profession are fully involved in the analysis of the data, in order to make use of it to benefit learners."

A full breakdown of results can be viewed on the EWC website at www.ewc.wales

For more information, contact us on 029 2046 0099 or e-mail media@ewc.wales