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Tel: 029 2046 0099

E-mail: media@ewc.wales

Website: www.ewc.wales

Twitter: [@ewc_cga](https://twitter.com/ewc_cga)

Press Article

Revealed: Who's teaching in Wales' FE institutions

With over 6,100 FE teachers registered in Wales, the Education Workforce Council can reveal fascinating data that gives us a clear insight into the Welsh further education workforce for the first time.

From 1 April 2015, all teachers in Wales' FE institutions have been required to register with the EWC in order to practice. This mirrors similar arrangements that have been in place for maintained schools in Wales since 2001. This takes the total number of teachers in Wales to nearly 43,000.

The latest information on the register shows that 59% of registered FE teachers are female. Whilst there are more females teaching in FE colleges than males, the prevalence of female teachers within schools is significantly higher at 75%.

The percentage gender split across colleges largely mirrors the overall sector picture with all colleges having more female FE teachers than male.

The study has also highlighted how the FE teacher workforce appears to be more mature than that of school teachers with 60% of registered school teachers being under 45 years of age compared with 40% of FE teachers.

EWC chief executive Hayden Llewellyn says, "Over time, as each new group of education practitioners joins the register, our knowledge of the workforce improves. 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!'"

Mark Isherwood, EWC Council member and chief executive of WEA YMCA Community College Cymru added, "These results highlight how Wales is ahead of the game when it comes to the regulation of its workforce. As head of an FE Institution myself, having FE teachers, and from 1 April next year, FE support staff registered with the EWC means that they are being recognised for the hard work they do and reinforce public confidence in the Welsh FE sector."

From 1 April 2016, it will be a legal requirement for all learning support workers in Wales' school and FE institutions to register with the EWC. For more information and the survey results in full, please visit our website, ewc.wales

Ends.