Submission from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Requirement for Head Teachers to hold the Standard for Headship before appointment

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar submits that, while a review of the current qualifications and overall framework for leadership for Head Teachers is welcomed, an Comhairle has a concern that, in making the Standard for Headship a mandatory requirement, the overall aim of ensuring that the most appropriate teachers are appointed to leadership roles within schools may not be achieved. It is suggested that there will always be circumstances where the most appropriate person for a Head Teacher post may not necessarily be the person who has achieved a particular qualification. An Comhairle, in common with many other Councils, particularly in rural Scotland, faces from time to time significant challenges in recruiting teachers to senior posts in schools. While there are undoubtedly a variety of factors for this position, An Comhairle would not wish to see recruitment made ever more difficult by a mandatory requirement for a specific leadership qualification.

I hope that this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,