Submission from Scottish Catholic Education Service

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

Dear Terry

I understand that the Scottish Government intends to lodge an amendment to the Education (Scotland) Bill to introduce a requirement for prospective head teachers to hold the Standard for Headship before appointment. The Scottish Catholic Education Service broadly supports the intentions of this amendment, in terms of ensuring that schools will be led by Head Teachers who are highly qualified at a postgraduate level and have demonstrated that they possess the range of qualities, skills, experience and commitments necessary for the job.

However, we are seriously concerned that the introduction of a statutory requirement to hold a particular qualification may, in the short term, impose an additional barrier in the appointment of Head Teachers. I am aware that Councils across Scotland are experiencing considerable difficulties in attracting sufficient numbers of applications for Head Teacher posts in denominational schools in particular. In many areas, this problem is acute. So, adding a further requirement at this stage can only worsen the problem.

we would encourage the Parliament to consider delaying the introduction of any statutory requirement until the available pool of potential Head Teachers has increased significantly.

Yours sincerely,