

Education sector comms - 23 March 2021

From 1 January 2021 professional regulators in the EEA (EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) will no longer share information about sanctions imposed by EEA authorities with the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) via the IMI (Internal Market Information) system. Instead, teachers will be asked to provide a letter of professional standing.

The statutory guidance "Keeping children safe In education" has been updated to reflect these changes and the updated guidance can be found [here](#).

Schools must continue to carry out safer recruitment checks on all applicants. For applicants that have lived or worked outside of the UK, schools must make any further checks they think appropriate so that relevant events that occurred outside the UK can be considered, including obtaining an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list information (even if the teacher has never been to the UK).

In addition, teachers will be required to provide proof of their past conduct as a teacher. This should be a letter of professional standing issued by the professional regulating authority in the country in which they worked. Such evidence can be considered alongside other information obtained through other pre-appointment checks which includes references to help assess their suitability.

For further guidance please read the [Home Office guidance on criminal records checks for overseas applicants](#).

As the Conduct Regulations require you to obtain confirmation that a work-seeker has any authorisation that a client considers necessary for a particular role, REC members should check a teacher's letter of professional standing for any individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK as part of the suitability checks for that teacher. For those members who hold REC Audited Education, please note that the audit criteria has been updated to include this check.

DFE recently provided further guidance to REC which is below:

"Teachers who qualified in the EEA and Switzerland can still apply for QTS, as is set out in our guidance, [here](#). However, on application for QTS, applicants will need to provide a letter of professional standing from the regulator in the country in which they qualified. The letter should:

- a. confirm that they are recognised in an EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand or USA
- b. show they are not subject to any restrictions in that country
- c. be dated within the 3 months prior to their application.

We expect that evidence on professional standing can be obtained from EU regulators, as this is a common feature of professional regulation. However, if applicants find that for some reason, they cannot obtain evidence of professional standing from the regulator they can contact the <mailto:QTS.enquiries@education.gov.uk>. The Teaching Regulation Agency can contact the competent authority for the teaching profession in that country to explore any issues.”