

Response to proposal to set up an Education Workforce Council (Scotland)

The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS) notes a proposal from the Scottish Government contained within the Education Governance Review to set up an Education Workforce Council (EWC) for Scotland, whose membership would include education staff employed in schools and colleges. We welcome the opportunity to respond to this proposal.

CILIPS works in affiliation with CILIP UK, and is the professional membership body for library and information professionals in all sectors, including education. We maintain a register of professionals in membership and award post nominals (ACLIP, MCLIP and FCLIP) to those who satisfy the relevant professional standard.

The consultation paper sets out plans for the EWC to assume the responsibilities of the General Teaching Council (Scotland) and the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Standards Council, and to register other education professionals.

Our organisation [accredits](#) formal courses of learning leading to library and information management qualifications in universities across the UK, including Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Glasgow University, Edinburgh University and University of Strathclyde. We offer pre and post qualification training and development for CILIPS members linked to our professional knowledge and skills base and our membership operate to a code of professional practice.

Our members are employed across many sectors in Scotland including schools, further education colleges and higher education institutions.

We welcome the professional recognition of library staff within the education service as a positive step alongside the opportunity for organisations such as our own to work in partnership with EWC to ensure our members are equipped to deliver the best outcomes for the pupils and students they serve.

However, CILIPS believes the proposal suffers from a lack of clarity in several areas:

- It does not set out an evidenced based rationale for setting up the EWC;
- The proposal suggests that members working in further education and schools would require to register with the EWC but is not explicit about those employed in the higher education sector;
- There is scant detail on how the EWC, its Council and Board, would interface with other professional bodies such as our own – we would want to be assured there was no overlap and that, as the professional membership body for library staff, we have a defined role;

- The proposal doesn't make clear how continuing professional development (CPD) would be delivered (or by whom) to registered EWC library staff;
- There is a lack of clarity at the point of registration – is registration a prerequisite of employment in the sector? Will it require to be renewed periodically?
- What are the benefits to library staff of registration given that CILIPS offers a clear accreditation and continuing professional development path for its members?

CILIPS therefore gives a cautious welcome to the proposals. We would be keen to explore the potential for partnership work with ECW and discuss strategies for working together to maintain standards using our well-developed accreditation structure for library and information professional practitioners.