

THE TEACHING AGENCY

The Coalition Government announced on 17 June 2011 the establishment of the **Teaching Agency** as a new executive agency that will be responsible for 'ensuring the supply of high quality teachers and training, and for teacher regulation'.

[The following is reproduced from the DfE's website]:

It will be operational from **April 2012** and, subject to getting all necessary approvals, including Parliamentary approval of related legislation, will take out some key functions currently carried out by the **Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA)**, **General Teaching Council for England (GTCE)**, **Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)** and the **Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA)**.

The agency will be responsible for three key areas of delivery:

- supply and, with others, retention of the workforce;
- the quality of the workforce;
- regulation of teacher conduct.

Supply and retention of the workforce

The agency will ensure that there is a sufficient supply of qualified teachers, early years workers, SENCOs and educational psychologists; and that there are enough trained examination officers to meet the needs of the system. It will also have a role in supporting the Government's drive for a more highly qualified early years workforce. In support of this role, its activities will include recruitment to training and ensuring that relevant training provision is in place.

The quality of the workforce

The agency will ensure that those entering the system – teachers and the early years workforce as well as SENCOs and educational psychologists – are of sufficient quality to meet the needs of the sector. It will also ensure that the training with which they, and examination officers, are provided is of high quality and is responsive to the changing educational landscape and ministers' priorities.

Teacher regulation

The agency will support the quality and status of the teaching profession by ensuring that in cases of serious professional misconduct, teachers can be barred from teaching. The regulatory function will now include all teachers and instructors in all maintained schools, non-maintained special schools, academies and free schools, sixth form colleges, independent schools and relevant youth accommodation and children's homes in England.

The agency will:

- consider cases of serious professional teacher misconduct and where appropriate, bar teachers from teaching;
- organise and conduct case hearings;
- administer and manage the list of prohibited teachers.

This announcement can be accessed at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/armslengthbodies/b0077806/the-teaching-agency>
